

The situation of food and agriculture in Africa and the Middle East

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**Sharing Knowledge Foundation – May 15th, 2017
Amman**



The food situation: major concerns



- **Large number of undernourished people**
 - Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA): 220 million in 2014-16 (23% of population, down from 33% in 1990-92)
 - Middle East & North Africa (MENA): 33 million (7.5% of population, up from 6.6% in 1990-92)
- **Rising obesity**
- **Deficit in micronutrients**

Hunger: major causes



- **War and conflicts**
- **Share of population living in extreme poverty**
 - 41% in SSA in 2013
 - 3% in MENA in 2008
- **The rural population is strongly affected by hunger**
 - In SSA, 76% of the extremely poor work in agriculture
 - * Very low labor productivity (low yields, small farms)

Low labor productivity in African agriculture



- **Value added per person employed in agriculture in 2015 (\$ 2010)**

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| - Sub-Saharan Africa | 1,219 |
| * South Africa | 9,451 |
| - Middle East & North Africa | 6,275 |
| - High-income countries | 30,017 |

Source : World Bank

Major challenges ahead



- **Rising food demand in Africa: risk of increased dependency on food imports**
 - Population: larger, richer, more urban
 - Eating patterns: more protein, more processed foods
- **Climate change**
 - Reduction in yields and cultivated area
- **Biodiversity loss**

Conditions for the takeoff of African agriculture



- **Growth in non-ag. sectors and in food processing**
- **Small farmer's access to land, credit and inputs**
- **Research and extension**
 - For a productive, sustainable agriculture (soil fertility)
- **Access to markets**
 - Infrastructure (roads...)
 - Inclusion of farmers in food value chains
- **Risk management, including import protection**
- **Producer organizations**

Conclusion: Renewed interest in agriculture in Africa



- **From the private sector**
 - Market potential
- **From governments and international donors**
 - Food security
 - Pro-poor, inclusive growth
 - Employment
 - Global security
 - But public investment in ag. still much too low

Thank you for your attention !

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