Guiding Investments in Sustainable Agricultural Markets in Africa (GISAMA)

A Brief Overview

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Guiding Investments in Sustainable Agricultural Markets in Africa (GISAMA)

- Objectives
- Partners
- Research and outreach themes
- Brief update on activities in Mali (focus on food staples in the cotton zone)
Objectives of GISAMA:

1. To identify public investments, marketing and trade policies needed to:
   – Catalyze development of staple food markets
   – Improve smallholder access to markets and incentives for farm productivity growth
   – Encourage private sector investment in crucial marketing functions
   – Improve food security

2. To develop long-term institutional collaboration between African universities and research institutes, regional economic organizations, and Michigan State University
Guiding Investments in Sustainable Agricultural Markets in Africa (GISAMA)

• Partners in Mali:
  – Food Security Commission (CSA)
  – Institut d’Economie Rurale - ECOFIL
  – Chambers of Agriculture of Mali (APCAM)

• Partners in Southern and Eastern Africa:
  – COMESA / ACTESA
  – Universities in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia
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- Research and outreach themes:
  - Theme 1: structure and behavior of smallholder agriculture, urban consumer behavior, dynamics
  - Theme 2: Value chain studies
  - Theme 3: Impact Assessment
GISAMA research in Mali

- Desk study of aggregate cereal production and marketing trends in Mali;
- Detailed household-level study of smallholder cereal production and marketing behavior in 3 production systems of Mali (co-funded by USAID):
  - Irrigated rice (Office du Niger)
  - Rainfed cereal production with cotton (Koutiala)
  - Rainfed cereal production without cotton (Tominian)
- Panel sample of 150 households in six villages in each system (building on World Bank Ruralstruc study 2007) complemented by focus group interviews
Focus on the cereal-cotton system

• Cotton historically an “engine of development” providing for capitalization of smallholder farming:
  – Rural roads
  – Animal traction equipment
  – Access to improved seeds and fertilizer on credit
  – Access to extension for cotton and food staple crops

• Financial crisis in cotton sector (since 2006)
  – Low international prices (in USD) combined with strong Euro
  – Low CFA farmgate prices and late payment for cotton
  – Low profitability aggravated by
    • group credit responsibility
    • elimination of non-cotton seasonal inputs
Koutiala - Location of cereal-cotton zone survey
Cereal-cotton system preliminary findings

• Key aggregate trend: increasing importance of maize in total cereal production for animal feed and urban household consumption -> more stable farmgate prices

• Preliminary household level survey findings in Koutiala:
  – Land allocation to cotton has decreased in favor of cereals and other crops; but
  – Maize cannot substitute for cotton as a cash crop;
  – Aggregate cereal production has not increased;
  – Decrease in number of net cereal sellers and buyers (increase in households not participating in cereal market);
  – Share of maize in total cereal sales has increased
    • Early maturing and can be sold before millet and sorghum to meet cash needs for school fees
Implications for farmers’ organizations

- Need for a cash crop with reliable production and marketing systems to capitalize smallholder farming;
- Smallholder farmers need access to sufficient land and equipment to be able to meet cash and food requirements;
- Soil management practices for moisture retention and fertilizer use efficiency critical to productivity of rainfed production systems;
- Investment in literacy and business skills for women and men to develop agricultural value added enterprises and complementary off-farm income sources.
Merci pour votre attention!