

Cutting Hunger & Poverty in Africa Through Better Programs and Policies

Contributions of the USAID-MSU Food Security II/III (FSII/III) Cooperative Agreement



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What is Food Security?

- Assuring that all people at all times have enough food for a healthy, active life:
 - 3 dimensions



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What is a Cooperative Agreement?



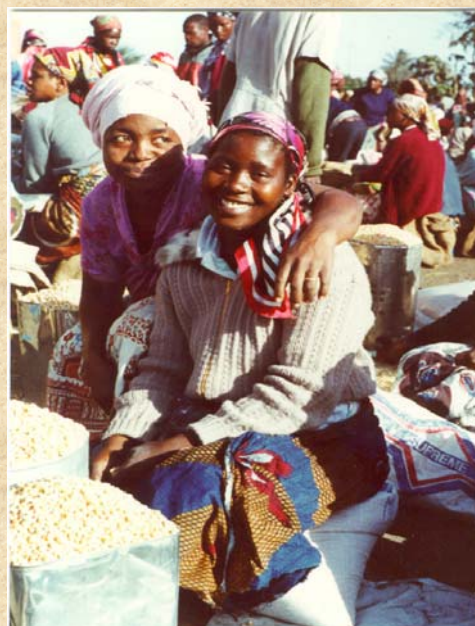
- Agreement among funding agency, research organization (University) and host-country partners
- Defines broad themes of research, with specific design worked out collaboratively
- Does not assume that we fully know the nature of the problem or the solutions at the start of the program

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Africa's Emerging Successes

- Economic reforms and private sector development
- Democratization
- Decentralization
- Rising per capita GDP
- Technology adoption



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Africa's Emerging Successes

- Transitioning from food aid to food production
 - Mozambique
- Daunting challenges remain



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Keys to Africa's Success

- Key elements to African success are increased incomes through better rural and agricultural policies and programs
- Secure access to food provides the domestic stability needed to enact reforms

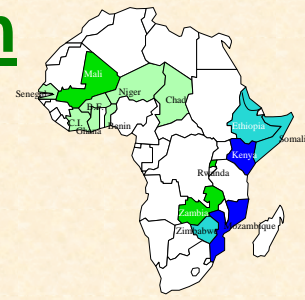


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The FS II/III Approach

- Strengthening Africans' voice in policy and program formulation:
 - Builds African capacity to conduct applied research, outreach and training using IT and other tools
 - Promotes public-private sector and NGO collaboration



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FS II/III Contributions

- Making markets work more effectively
- Improving farmers' access to better technologies
- Improving poor people's access to food
- Strengthening civil society through farmer and trader associations



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Making Markets Work Better

- Analyzing and designing market reforms:
 - Private milling in Southern Africa
 - Cash crops in Mozambique
 - Cereals in Mali
 - Exchange rates in West Africa



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Making Markets Work Better

- Using IT to link buyers and sellers through Market Information Systems
 - Mali
 - Mozambique
 - Rwanda
 - Zambia
 - Ethiopia
 - West Africa Regional Network



Solar Panel for Radio Modem

Mozambique and Zambia Teams Visit Mali MIS

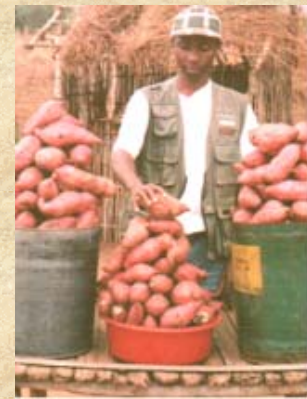


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Better Technology for Farmers

- Analyzing payoffs to market driven research and extension
- Improving seed and fertilizer policies
- Providing technical information
- Helping the private sector lower input costs



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Improving Access to Food

- Working with governments and NGOs
 - Strengthen agriculture-nutrition linkages
 - Improve the targeting and programming of food aid
 - Develop low-cost methods to monitor household well-being
 - Increase the range of food products available to the poor



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Strengthening Civil Society

- Gaining “voice” or bargaining power at the policy-making table
- Reducing harassment
- Expanding regional trade
- Improving input and output marketing



**Mali Farm Leaders Visit
Chicago Board of Trade**

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Why Does FS II/III Work So Well?

- Creates partnerships
- Builds African capacity
- Makes policy recommendations based on empirical research, not ideology
- Analyzes the agricultural system, not just the farm
- Attracts world-class resources with a long-term commitment



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Creating Partnerships

- FS II/III helps create partnerships between:
 - Public sector, private sector & NGOs
 - Africa and the US
 - Among Africans
- Partnerships are the foundation of the “land-grant” philosophy



Innovative Supply Chain Research Extension Program in Mali

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Building African Capacity

- To succeed in the fight against hunger and poverty, Africans must lead the way
 - Training, both in-country and post-graduate education



Mozambique Sweet Potato Team



Mali Market Information Team



Zambia CSO Training

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Better Research

- MSU attracts world-class resources to fight hunger and poverty
 - Faculty
 - Graduate Students
 - African Partners
 - Broader University Community
- Programs and policies are based on facts, not ideology or “conventional wisdom”



Market Extension Outreach



Accurate Market Information

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A Long-Term Commitment

- The FS II/III team and the MSU faculty have a long history of involvement in Africa, collaborating with many partners
 - USAID/Washington
 - USAID Missions
 - African Institutions
 - Local & International NGOs



Ethiopia



Mozambique



Mali



Zambia

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Top 5 “Myths” of Development

The FSII/III team’s empirical research has helped to dispel several “myths”:

1. “Farmers produce their own food”; more than ½ of the farmers may be buying a significant portion
2. “Liberalization means getting government out of the way”; markets don’t arise spontaneously – they must be built
3. “The private sector won’t service remote areas”; they will, if the proper reforms have been enacted
4. “Poor consumers won’t buy cheaper (inferior) maize”; price does matter
5. “Cash crops are the mother of all poverty”; cash-cropping leads to greater food consumption



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