The Food Security Group: A Brief Tour

Brown Bag Seminar
Dept. of Agricultural Economics
Michigan State University
September 25, 2007

Objective

- To familiarize students with Food Security Group (FSG):
  - Faculty and graduate students
  - Projects
  - Research themes
  - Opportunities for students
Background

- USAID-funded projects focused on food security in Africa started in 1983
- Earlier era of projects focused on agricultural and rural development
- “FSG” refers to:
  - Food Security III Cooperative Agreement
  - Related projects with same faculty team
- FSG Web site

FSG Faculty Based in U.S.

- Duncan Boughton
- Eric Crawford
- Cynthia Donovan
- Steve Haggblade (Washington, D.C.)
FSG Faculty in U.S., cont.

Thom Jayne  
Valerie Kelly (Maine)

John Staatz  
Dave Tschirley

FSG Faculty Overseas

- Mali: Nango Dembélé
- Mozambique: Gilead Mlay, Ellen Payongayong
- Zambia: Antony Chapoto, Jones Govereh, Mike Weber
FSG-Funded Graduate Students

- Ramzi Adjao
- Marthe Diallo
- Alda Tomo (Mozambique)
- Zambia Project:
  - Ana Fernandez
  - Nicky Mason
  - Hunter Nielson
  - Zhiying Xu
- Kenya Project:
  - Joshua Ariga
  - Bill Burke
  - Lilian Kirimi
  - Mary Mathenge
  - Elliot Mghenyi
  - * Miltone Ayieko
  - * Milu Muyanga
  - * coming Spring ‘08

FSG-Advised Grad Students

- Dingi Banda
- Kathleen Bingham
- Andrew Kizito
- Athur Mabiso
- Mukwiti Mwiinga
- Tomo Nagai
- Patrick Ofori
- Sonja Perakis
- Christina Plerhoples
- Jake Ricker-Gilbert
FSG Campus Support Staff

- Steve Longabaugh: Web development, project admin., research assistance
- Margaret Beaver: Survey research support, SPSS/Stata training
- Rosie Kelly, Jean Schueller, Xiao Zhen Li: Business office management

FSG Projects

- Food Security III Cooperative Agreement
  - “Leader” agreement = umbrella project
  - Country-level projects
  - Collaborative design and implementation
- Projects not part of FS III but related:
  - Some funded by USAID
  - Some funded by other donors (World Bank, SIDA, Rockefeller & Hewlett Foundations)
FS III Cooperative Agreement

- Goal: to integrate applied research findings into policy dialogue and program design to promote agricultural growth as a means to cut hunger and poverty
- Joint product approach: research, outreach, training

FS III Projects

- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- West Africa regional
- Zambia
- Core funding from USAID EGAT (Econ. Growth, Ag., & Trade) Bureau, Africa Bureau, and Food for Peace
Closely Related Projects

- Kenya (USAID funding)
- Zambia (USAID + SIDA funding)
- World Bank (cotton; Southern Africa regional trade; many others)
- West African Cotton Improvement Project
- Rockefeller Foundation (Southern Africa maize; fertilizer in Kenya)
- Hewlett Foundation (West Africa regional trade)

Research Themes

- FSG overall (next slide)
- FS-III Cooperative Agreement overall
- FS-III core work plan
- Proposed USAID/Africa Bureau project
FSG Research Themes

- Agricultural input use, input market development, and natural resource mgt.
- Output market development and reform
  - Includes market information systems
- Food aid and emergency relief
- Rural household income and assets
- Cotton sector development and reform
- HIV/AIDS impacts on agriculture and rural households; health/productivity linkages

Publications

- Journal articles, books, etc.
- International Development Papers and Working Papers
- Policy Synthesis briefs
- In-country publication series
Online FSG Resources

- **Agricultural Market Information Virtual Library**
- Survey research **training materials**
- **Learning resources** for applied food security policy analysis
- **Food Security Information Portal** (demo site; includes links to many Web-based research and learning resources)

Opportunities for Students

- Assistantship funding from projects
- Research opportunities:
  - Involving overseas field work
  - Using already-collected field survey data
- Mentoring by FSG faculty who serve as members of student guidance committees
- SPSS/Stata training workshops held in the department, usually in January
FS III Research Themes

- Improving food systems performance, including ag. productivity, value chains, and input and output market growth
- Understanding household income and livelihood dynamics, and impacts of HIV/AIDS on households and agriculture
- Understanding food security/natural resource management interactions
FS-III Core Work Plan Themes

- Agricultural technology and natural resource management
- Growth-enhancing food system and output market development
- Strategies for rural growth, poverty alleviation and structural transformation
- Understanding vulnerability and managing food aid for long-term development

Africa Bureau Project Themes

- Food staple markets:
  - Regional trade in food staples
  - Integrating market analysis into design of emergency response and social protection
- Fertilizer and related input market growth
- Health and productivity linkages