Africa’s hunger hot spots are well known.
Africa’s unenviable reputation as:

- Chronically food insecure
- Dependent on massive inflows of food aid

Today, Africa spends $19 billion per year on food imports
Attracts the majority of worldwide emergency food aid.

Less well-known are Africa’s highly productive, regularly surplus food production zones
COMESA
Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA)

• Expand regional trade in *food staples* to link surplus and deficit zones
• Areas of reliable surpluses are those with more than one major food staple (dual-staple production zones)
Dried Cassava Trade Flows
(for snack foods, flour, feeds and industrial processing)

Dried cassava at the Chembe border post, going from Zambia into the DRC
Two keys for linking surplus and deficit food staple zones

- Cross-border trade in food staples
- Consumer substitution among food staples

Where are Africa’s surplus food staple production zones?

- Areas of favorable rainfall or economical irrigation
- Multiple-staple zones
  - cassava & maize (N. Zambia)
  - banana, cassava & maize (Uganda)
  - irish potato, cassava & maize (Mozambique)
  - cassava, rice, maize (S. Tanzania)
Map of principal maize trade flows in southern Africa today

Mozambique’s dual staple food zones

Density of Food Staple Production in Mozambique

Number of households
Hectarage planted
Mozambican Maize Traders Taking Maize from Northern Mozambique into Malawi

Dual staple zones
Linking surplus (FSEHS) zones with deficit zones

- Improves food security in deficit zones
- Reduces price volatility
- Improves producer incentives in surplus zones
- Accelerates agricultural growth

Despite regional trade agreements, many governments restrict cross-border trade in food staples

- Malawi and Zambia (strict controls)
- Kenya (progressively lifted restrictions)
- Mozambique, S.Africa and Mali (open border policy)
COMESA
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• Expand regional trade in food staples to link surplus and deficit zones
• Increase farm incomes through commercialization of food staples
• Spur industrial processing of food staples