



INNOVATIVE POLICIES AND/OR PROGRAMMES FOR ERADICATING POVERTY IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Expert Group Meeting on:

“Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade
for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)”

Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD) of the United
Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
THEME: “Accelerating Global Actions for a World Without
Poverty”

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OUTLINE

1.0 Introduction

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1.2 Poverty issues - 2011-2020: Poverty as a human rights issue, demanding a system's approach

1.3 Poverty issues -2021 to present: Innovation, Zoning and considerations of urban, peri-urban and rural agriculture and Sustainability

2.0 Causes of Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa

3.0 Areas for strategic policy formulations at Global, National and Farm level

4.0 Emerging key issues

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 POVERTY ISSUES – 2000- 2010: UNDERSTANDING POVERTY AND ITS MEASUREMENT

i) Understanding Poverty

- ▶ Poverty and food insecurity are inseparable. Poverty has many determinants and can only be eradicated by first measuring it to understand the causes, nature and extent/depth of poverty.
- ▶ Oluoko-Odingo, 2009 discussed Determinants of poverty (Regional determinants, Inter-household and intra-household determinants of poverty (socioeconomic, demographic and health factors), and other factors

ii) Measurement of Poverty

- ▶ World Bank (Income Approach), UNDP Human Development Approach), IFAD (Multi-dimensional Assessment tool), FAO (Prevalence of Undernutrition (PoU), Food Insecurity Access Scale (FIAS), etc)
- ▶ Asselin (2009) – Discussed 10 Dimensions of Poverty (Simplified and an integrative approach that allows monitoring and evaluation):
 - ▶ 1. Income; 2. Education; 3. Health; 4. Food/Nutrition; 5. Safe water/Sanitation; 6. Labour/Employment; 7. Housing (Living environment); 8. Access to productive Assets; 9. Access to Markets; 10. Community participation/ Social peace

1.2 POVERTY ISSUES 2011-2020: POVERTY IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, REQUIRING A SYSTEMS APPROACH

▶ Oluoko-Odingo 2011

- Policies should cover social protection, productivity and diversification, governance at various levels.
- Food insecurity and poverty should be viewed in the context of those who have lost their lives and livelihoods from hunger, disease, resource wars and in trying to escape from poverty.
- A systems approach was required.

▶ Oluoko-Odingo, A.A. 2018

- ▶ Poverty and food insecurity are human induced slow onset disasters due to misuse of land, unfavourable land practices, human induced climate change, conflicts and wars, corruption and faulty policies-

1.3 POVERTY ISSUES 2021 TO PRESENT: INNOVATION, ZONING AND CONSIDERATIONS OF URBAN, PERI-URBAN AND RURAL AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Oluoko-Odingo 2020 and UNCTAD, 2017 observed Incorrect use of chemical inputs (UNCTAD, 2017) and

- ▶ Impacts of agronomic practices on environment need awareness

Oluoko-Odingo, A.A. 2020: Urban areas:

- ▶ There is need to rethink innovation approaches that would improve urban and peri-urban agriculture, while also increasing incomes in line with SDG on agriculture
- ▶ Proper zoning of the city and small-scale farmer restructuring to balance household size, famer size and incomes and enhance productivity for improved food security and nutrition, also benefits agricultural tourism
- ▶ Urban and peri-urban policy required to address imbalances, maximise farm productivity in peri-urban areas with steps for food security and sustainable agriculture

2.0 MAIN
CAUSES OF
POVERTY AND
FOOD
INSECURITY IN
AFRICA

Anthropogenic food insecurity &
Climate change food insecurity
(Oluoko-Odingo 2022)

Ecosystem security is needed for
lasting Poverty eradication &
human security (Oluoko-Odingo
2023)

Current challenges include
Increasing emissions and
temperatures, Biodiversity loss,
Fighting deprivation (poverty)

3. 0 AREAS FOR POLICY FORMULATION

3.1 GLOBAL LEVEL

- Reform of UN Charter to include the rights to social protection and other components of human security
- Formation of a global institution of governance with supervisory role is to deal with: Leadership and vision, Institutional reforms, Stakeholder engagement, Review of progress (monitoring and evaluation)
- Provision of Basic services for all and social equity and encouraging young people to embrace agriculture to provide insufficient labour
- Social protection, productivity and diversification, and governance at various levels.
- Provision of a strategy on how to eliminate corruption
- Application of a new format to group countries, for instance, using clean energy consumption: countries could be grouped using this definition: Development that utilizes clean, sustainable and locally available energy sources for residential, transport and industrial needs with enhanced ecosystem services constantly for at least 50 years

3.2 NATIONAL LEVEL

- Increasing Inclusivity and output and employment of youth
- Reduction of inequalities (social justice)/ Leave no one behind and reducing vulnerability and economic insecurity (vulnerability to climate risks and economic shocks/ building resilience)
- Provision of Safety nets/social protection (stipend, insurance, social networks, etc)
- Dealing with environmental impacts from food production
- Community control of their food production (using indigenous crops and locally grown food) (Herderson and Green 2019)
- Provision of strategies for Increasing agricultural innovation, Value Addition and Agri-business in urban and peri-urban areas,
- Simultaneously ensuring Education, Adequate health, Water and sanitation, Gender equality



- Taming land subdivision at recommended levels to maximize productivity and sustainability, for instance, having a Farm size of 2.8 to 3.5Ha, particularly in urban areas, and Market access of be less than 4Km.
- Training farmers on agricultural innovations that would contribute to maximization of their incomes while also ensuring environmental sustainability (use of labour, energy for value addition and ecosystem conservation)
- Improving water access and security to peri-urban areas, while also integrating the youth in farming
- Diversification of crops, including indigenous crops, neglected/orphan crops and organic farming
- Entrepreneurship development among small-scale farmers for income diversification
- Promoting Research, , technology and dissemination to continually inform decisions
- Strengthening Food remitting and rural urban linkages (for better diffusion of resources, technologies and information dissemination)
- Infrastructural development (to improve accessibility- markets, health, financial institutions, and social networks)
- Focus on small-scale farmers
- Appreciating the role of women in agriculture by enabling them access and ownership to productive resources- land, labour, capital, information, social networks, etc



3.3 THE FARM LEVEL

- Each member of the household to engage in production
- Household size of 5 members
- Correct use of inputs (eg reduced use of chemical inputs and increased use of bio-pesticides, etc)
- Sustainable land water resources management
- Change in agriculture practices (eg embracing agroecology)

3.4 REFORMS TO STRENGTHEN SMALL-SALE FARM PRODUCTIVITY AND POVERTY ERADICATION

Farm reforms

- Eco-friendly farming techniques prioritized
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation integrated into small-scale farmer sustainable livelihood
- Stopping farm fragmentation
- Zoning for various activities- residential, farm land, industry, biodiversity conservation and other land uses

Farmer reforms

- Social protection and crop insurance
- Awareness and education on fighting food insecurity and poverty amidst climate change
- Capability building through study tours and extension service on agronomic practices, climate risk reduction and innovation approaches to increase farm productivity
- Enhancing Land ownership by all farmers

Governance reforms

- Appropriate governance system to link farmer to local and national extension services
- Induction of leaders to sharpen their skills on service, socialization and moral health are essential for food security
- State and non-state actor engagement
- Adequate resourcing for food production activities



4.0 EMERGING KEY ISSUES

1. The world has not met the world food summit commitments of 1996 nor the Millennium Development goals, let alone achieving SDGs.
2. Poverty eradication should integrate 7 nexus issues: Food (land and biodiversity), Climate, Water, Energy, Population (economy) and , Conflict, Disease (pandemics eg COVID-19).
3. There are strategies to deal with food (biodiversity), water, energy and climate.
4. It is possible to end global poverty and food insecurity through better food system governance

5. All actors in the food system should collaborate in the process of policy formulation, playing their different roles
6. Methodology for eliminating poverty should be agreed upon by stakeholders (government and non-state actors)
7. Assessment of poverty in a multidimensional way in terms of current status and ranking for all SSA countries before policy implementation is a necessity.
8. Poverty eradication begins with the transformation of the food system, which is characterised by gender inequalities and marginalization, vulnerability to climate risks and shrinking resources

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