



Seminar · Wednesday 3 December 2008

Hunger, Health and Hope in Africa



About the seminar

The current global food crisis has accentuated what was already evident – that there is an urgent need for development in Africa to increase food production and food security for millions of poor Africans. Several development initiatives are currently focusing on Africa. The 2008 Africa Commission, established by the Danish Government and chaired by the Danish Prime Minister, aims at presenting new ideas and strategies to strengthen international development cooperation with Africa. With this seminar, University of Copenhagen will bring together international experts to discuss these issues, and provide inputs that will feed into the further work of the Africa Commission.

Nutritious diets are a prerequisite for realising the potential in other sectors, particularly education and health. Three of the eight Millennium Development Goals are directly related to human health and several others indirectly. Adequate and nutritious food is a prerequisite for a healthy life.

While the increase in food prices is both a market opportunity for and a threat to the livelihood of the rural African population, the increase in fertiliser prices is threatening to halt the process of agricultural development. Development of the agricultural sector has been demonstrated to be one of the most efficient, equitable, gender sensitive and pro-poor ways of creating employment and economic growth.

The first green revolution relied heavily on governments and public institutions. This time round, a much greater role is envisaged for the private sector - not only through the large global development programmes, but more importantly through local investments in the agricultural sector. Agribusiness development, yielding local value addition of primary products through processing and refinement is an important component in the reformation of the value chains.



About the speakers

Nicholas W. Minot is a Senior Research Fellow in the Markets, Trade and Institutions Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). He has carried out research on the agricultural market reform, fertilizer policy, fruit and vegetable markets, and the spatial patterns in poverty, working in Vietnam, China, Benin, Malawi, Tanzania, and Egypt. He is the leader of a research program on strategies for promoting the participation of small farmers in high-value agricultural commodity supply chains.

André Bationo is a Senior Programme Officer, Soil Health Program (SHP) and Director, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Office, Accra, Ghana. Previously he was a Principal Scientist and Coordinator of the African Network of Soil Biology and Fertility (AfNet) - a network of over 450 members from 21 African countries - at the Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute of CIAT (International Centre for Tropical Agriculture). He was also a staff member at the International Centre for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development (IFDC) and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA). Dr. Bationo has long term research experience in tropical agriculture research for development: nutrient (P, C and N) dynamics, technology development and dissemination.

Jumanne A. Maghembe, Honourable Professor and Minister of Education and Vocational Training in the government of Tanzania. Dr. Maghembe has his professional background in forestry from Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania.

Klaus Bustrup is a member of the Africa Commission. Mr. Bustrup has been a member of the Danish Board for International Development Cooperation since 1990, and was appointed Chairman in the beginning of 2008. Prior to this position, Mr. Bustrup held the position as General Director of the Danish Agricultural Council. He holds several board member posts, including in the humanitarian organization CARE Denmark.

Henrik Friis is Professor of International Nutrition and Health, Department of Human Nutrition, Faculty of Life Sciences. Since 2007 Honorary Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Key research topics are: Nutrition and health in low-income countries. Especially the role of micronutrients in pregnancy, lactation and infancy, and during HIV and TB. Traditional foods and food processing. Nutrition and chronic diseases.

Lene Jespersen is Professor in Global Food Microbiology, Department of Food Science, Faculty of Life Sciences. Key research topics are: biotechnology, food microbiology, fermentation, indigenous food products, microbial biodiversity, system biology for starter cultures, microbial interactions with the human GI tract, capacity building in developing countries.



Programme

Venue: Lecture hall 3-14, Thorvaldsensvej 40, Frederiksberg C, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen.

- 9.00-9.10 Welcome. *Dean Per Holten-Andersen.*
- 9.10-9.20 Introduction. *Journalist Kirsten Larsen.*
- 9.20-9.50 The Effect of Increased Agricultural Research, especially in Africa. *Senior Research Fellow in the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)'s Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division Dr. Nicholas Minot.*
- 9.50-10.20 The Second Green Revolution in Africa. *Senior Programme Officer, Soil Health Programme, and Director, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Office, Accra, Ghana, Dr. André Bationo.*
- 10.20-10.50 Coffee break.
- 10.50-11.20 What Africa Wants. *Minister of Education, Tanzania, Dr. Jumanne A. Maghembe. (To be confirmed).*
- 11.20-11.40 The Africa Commission's view on the role of Agriculture and Agribusiness. *Member of the Africa Commission: Klaus Bustrup Chairman of the Danish Board for International Development Cooperation.*
- 11.40-12.10 Investing in Nutrition: What is the Evidence? *Professor of International Nutrition and Health, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Henrik Friis.*
- 12.10-12.40 Support of Agribusiness by Value Added Food Processing. *Professor in Global Food Microbiology, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Lene Jespersen.*
- 12.40-12.45 Presentation of the afternoon's programme. (Kirsten Larsen)
- 12.45-13.00 Strategic Partnership Agreement Signing ceremony.
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch.
- 14.00-15.00 Working group sessions on policy recommendations for the Africa Commission:
1. Market, Trade and Institutions Recommendations (Chaired by Nicholas Minot). *Lecture room 3-11.*
2. Food Production and Natural Resources Recommendations (Chaired by André Bationo). *Lecture room 3-12.*
3. Health and Nutrition Recommendations (Chaired by Henrik Friis). *Lecture room 3-06.*
- 15.00-15.30 Presentation of recommendations for the Africa Commission in plenum.

Registration: no later than 12 November 2008 to Louise Dyhr Edjabou e-mail: louisedp@life.ku.dk
Please indicate your name, title, institution and which of the three working groups you would like to participate in during the afternoon's programme.

Media partner

Kristeligt Dagblad



About the Africa Commission

The Africa Commission was launched by the Danish Government in April 2008. The aim of the Commission is to present new ideas and strategies to strengthen international development cooperation with Africa. It is the ambition that the strategies will improve the effectiveness of international development cooperation with Africa.

The Commission is composed of 18 members and includes the President of Tanzania, the Prime Minister of Mozambique, the Managing Director of the World Bank, the President of the African Development Bank, high-level representatives from, inter alia, the UN, the African Union, ECOWAS and the EU as well as leading academics. The majority of the members are from Africa.

At the first meeting of the Africa Commission, the 18 members decided upon a very ambitious work program and as part of this, the Commission is organizing five thematic conferences between June and late October 2008.

The Commission will then meet again in late November to discuss the recommendations set forth by the participants of the conferences. Then a new set of workshops and seminars will take place in order to prepare the final report, which will be presented in May 2009.

www.africacommission.um.dk/en

