

**Expert Group Meeting/Workshop on Sustainable Modernization on
Agricultural and Rural Transformation (SMART) in Africa: Indicators of
potential and readiness, and lessons from Korea
17 to 19 December 2008 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**

Conclusions and Recommendations

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in partnership with the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)/UN Governance Centre (UNGC) organized, from 17 to 19 December 2008, an Expert Group Meeting/Workshop on Sustainable Modernization of Agricultural and Rural Transformation (SMART) in Africa: indicators of potential and readiness, and lessons from Korea. The meeting was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The meeting gathered over 35 high-level experts and practitioners in the fields of agriculture and rural development. These experts were drawn from each of the four sub-regions of Sub-Saharan Africa and were from 14 African countries which are Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. One expert from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) participated in the meeting. Three experts from South Korea's grass-root development project commonly referred to as the "Saemaul Undong" participated in the meeting. Among the participants were also the representatives of UNPOG/UNGC and ECA.

Context

The performance of African agriculture has been disappointing over many decades. As such Africa is the only region of the world where per capita food production has been declining over the past three decades. As a result, there is increasing rural poverty, rising food prices, widespread famines and increasing food imports now estimated at US\$ 25 billion per year.

The main objective of the meeting was to provide insights into the challenges related to agriculture and rural development (ARD) in Africa with a special focus on in-depth learning from the successful case of Korea's grass-root development project, the "Saemaul Undong", as well as to develop a common SMART index that can help effect ARD in the region.

Towards achieving the meeting objective, nine presentations on three major themes were made and discussed. These themes are related to (i) features of African agriculture and implications for the achievement of Green Revolution and rural Transformation, drawing from subregional assessments; (ii) indicators of SMART potential and readiness; and (iii) the Korea's Saemaul Undong. Two parallel discussions were carried out to (i) explore the application of the Saemaul Undong approach to African agricultural and rural Transformation and (ii) to develop a Common SMART index.

Major conclusions and recommendations

1. The meeting took note of the following features of agriculture and rural development status in Africa:

- Sustainable agricultural growth is crucial for the alleviation of poverty and the promotion of rural transformation in Africa. This crucial role can be fulfilled by locating agriculture at the core of development policy and agenda at regional and national levels.
- African farmers suffer from poor empowerment and self-organized. They are also poorly involved in the extension and inputs delivery system and cannot counter the current failure of the public extension system.
- Lack of continued-training provision for farmers prevents them from gaining autonomous capacity and sense of independence to take care of themselves.
- The high transaction costs associated with agricultural inputs and outputs delivery renders Africa's agriculture most uncompetitive.
- Smallholder farmers and particularly women and youth are key actors in the African agricultural sector.
- Socio-political and institutional stability are lacking which are the prerequisite for the successful agricultural and rural development in Africa
- Africa relies heavily on food aid and food import.
- Rural Non-Farm Economy (RNFE) is underdeveloped in the different sub-regions of Africa though this is an important pillar for rural development
- Many SMART/GR problems are not confined by national boundaries and are truly sub-regional or regional.
- Agricultural policy and strategies have not been fully harmonised at the sub-regional and regional levels.
- Farmers' access to credit, taking into account the need to guarantee credit recovery and sustainability, is not given due consideration in the SMART process.
- Private sector involvement in fishery sector especially the aquaculture sub-sector, remains limited though the private sector and the fishery sectors are instrumental in raising the income of the rural population.
- Issues related to integrated livestock-crop production system in the SMART process and support to a sedentary approach in the livestock sector development in the Sahel region are not adequately addressed.
- Issues related to energy for agriculture and rural transformation in Africa are not properly addressed.
- Issues related to pro-poor agricultural research, knowledge generation and dissemination especially interaction between the research services, extension and farmers are not resolved.
- Agriculture is not promoted as a business. Regional agricultural markets are underdeveloped and opportunities for greater regional cooperation

and integration to foster SMART/GR and agricultural trade markets seem to be lost.

- Most of the success stories so far identified in Africa are specifically crop related and export oriented.

2. The Meeting has learned about Saemaul Undong philosophy which is anchored on empowering the local community to make decisions about their own development. The methodology mostly calls for self-reliance.

3. After a thorough review of both the features of agricultural and rural development in Africa and the Saemaul Undong approach presented above, experts unanimously agreed that this approach is relevant and recommended its adaptation/replication for the promotion of SMART/GR in Africa. These experts also recommended that pilot projects be formulated and urgently implemented to further knowledge and practice exposure including field initiatives for Saemaul Undong application to SMART in Africa.

Experts further recommended that UN-ECA explore ways of enhancing knowledge sharing and coordination among other best practices related initiatives in Africa with a view to fostering synergy among the various initiatives and ensuring that they operate in concert and each of them is a value addition to Africa's SMART/GR drive.

Experts called on UNECA, UNPOG//UNGC and UNDESA to play an important role with respect to lesson learning related to and application of the Saemaul Undong approach to SMART/GR in Africa.

4. Indicators of SMART potential and readiness developed by the consultants are important in planning and designing SMART/GR initiatives in Africa. They can be directly applied to planning and implementation of the Saemaul Undong approach in Africa.

Experts recommended that the work on the development of the common SMART index be further pursued. They also recommended that ECA form a team of selected experts to further develop the index. They further recommended that a field -testing of the index be carried. A full write-up on the index including its description, functions and guidance for practical use is needed.

Follow-up and the way forward

In light of the above conclusions and recommendation:

- (i) The expert group meeting unanimously agreed to develop and implement an initiative to apply the Saemaul Undong to promote SMART/GR in Africa. In this regard the expert group meeting produced and adopted an initiative entitled: ***The ECA – UNPOG SAEMAUL UNDONG Initiative on Green revolution and Rural transformation in Africa*** (see Annex 1 for the outline of the initiative). The title of this initiative can be revisited after consultation with UNDESA.

This initiative consists of the objectives, activities and strategies related to the application of the Saemaul Undong approach in Africa over the next 5-10 years through collaboration between ECA, UNPOG and UNDESA in partnership with other SMART/GR regional players.

The next step consists of the finalization of project proposal and mobilization of resources for its implementation through collaborative actions by UNECA, UNPOG and UNDESA.

- (ii) The expert group meeting urged for the finalization of the SMART Potential and Readiness index produced during this meeting (see Annex 2). In this regards, it recommended the following next steps:
- ECA should form a team that will refine and finalize the index. Criteria for the development of the index, the description of the index and its practical use should be documented.
 - ECA should carry out field-testing of the index upon its finalization.
 - Publication of the index should be effected.

Annex 1

ECA – UNPOG SAEMAUL UNDONG INITIATIVE ON GREEN REVOLUTION AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA

PROJECT FOR THE APPLICATION OF SAEMAUL UNDONG APPROACH TO AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

1. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

(To use the introduction in the Aid Memoire sent to participants)

2. OVERALL GOAL

Rural transformation to achieve green revolution through the application of Seamaul Undong self-reliance development model.

3. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Objective 1. To organize rural communities in pilot sites to identify their development needs

Activity 1.1: To identify representative pilot communities in each sub-region.

Activity 1.2: To conduct base line surveys of identified communities

Activity 1.3: To conduct community consultations

Objective 2. To promote the growth and development of diligence, self-reliance and cooperation

Activity 2.1: Capacity building of leaders

Activity 2.2: Capacity building of communities by leaders

Objective 3. Work with like-minded organizations to promote food security and green revolution in pilot communities

Activity 3.1: To identify like-minded organizations and their objectives

Activity 3.2: To sensitize like-minded organizations to the principles of self-reliance of Saemaul Undong model.

4. EXPECTED RESULTS

Expected result 1.1: At least 5 representative pilot communities have been identified.

Expected result 1.2: Base line surveys of identified communities have been conducted.

Expected result 1.3: Community consultations have been conducted, leaders identified and majority of community members attended.

Expected result 2.1: At least 5 leaders have been trained

Expected result 2.2: At least 5 communities have been trained

Expected result 3.1: At least 2 Like-minded organizations have been identified in each sub-region.

Expected result 3.2: At least 2 like-minded organizations have been sensitized to the principles of self-reliance of Saemaul Undong model.

5. INDICATORS OF RESULTS

1.1.1 Number and location of identified pilot communities
MOV: Monitoring report

1.2.1 Data on characteristics of identified communities available
MOV: Monitoring report

1.3.1 At least 60% of participants are interested

1.3.2 Major needs of communities identified

1.3.3 At least 5 leaders identified
MOV: Monitoring report

2.1.1 Trained leaders are capable of training community members

2.2.1 Communities are capable of addressing their needs including the attainment of sustainable green revolution, and generating relevant projects
MOV: Monitoring report

3.1.1 Consultations between communities and like-minded organizations organized and continuous; and harmony in activities is evident

3.2.1 Like-minded organizations are aware of Saemaul Undong concept.

MOV: Monitoring report

6. STRATEGY

- 6.1 ECA and UNPOG strengthen their partnership**
- 6.2 ECA and UNPOG finalize the project proposal and look for resources to initiate pilot projects**
- 6.3 ECA and UNPOG ensure that pilot projects are implemented**
- 6.4 ECA and UNPOG sell the project to Governments through RECs**

7. TIMELINE AND BUDGET

ECA and UNPOG are responsible for determining timeline and drafting the budget

Annex 2:

DEVELOPING SMART POTENTIAL AND READINESS INDEX

The index should be based on the following components with their respective weighting.

1. Basic development indicators (10%);
2. Production resources (15%);
3. Infrastructure (15%);
4. Agricultural production (15%);
5. Capacity of R & D (Science, Technology and Innovations system) (15%);
6. Agricultural development support policies (25%), regional cooperation (5%); and
7. Regional integration (5%)

1) Basic development indicators

Indicator	Potential	Readiness	Total
Population growth vs agricultural growth	-	2	2
Level of urbanization		2	2
Poverty rate	1	1	2
Economic growth	1	1	2
Population density	1	1	2

2) Production resources

Indicator	Potential	Readiness	Total
A) Land /3 points Per capita arable land	0.6	-	0.6
Potential irrigable land	0.3	0.3	0.6
Land under irrigation		0.6	0.6
Soil fertility	0.3	0.3	0.6
Degradation	0.3	0.3	0.6
B) Water /2 points Per capita water for agriculture	0.5	0.5	1
Annual precipitation	0.5	-	0.5

Length of the rainy season	0.5	-	0.5
C) Forests /1 point			
% of land under forest	0.5		0.5
% of land under savanna	0.5		0.5
D) climate/1 point			
Temperature	0.5		0.5
Frequency of climate related natural disasters	0.5		0.5
E) Financial resources/3 Points			
Availability of financial services	1	-	1
Accessibility of financial services	1		1
Group lending	1		1
F) human resources/3 points			
Farm wage rate		1	1
availability of farm labor	0.5	0.5	1
Farmers training		1	1
I) entrepreneurial resources/ 1 point			
Market oriented production (% of production commercialised)		0.5	0.5
Traders serving farmers		0.5	0.5

3) Infrastructure: points equally allocated

3.1) Transportation infrastructure

Indicator	Potential	Readiness	Total
1) Transportation infrastructure/ 2.5 points			
Road network: Km of rural road per capita	0.25	0.25	0.5
Railways: Km of railways/capita	0.25	0.25	0.5
Km of functional railways	0.25	0.25	0.5
Accessibility to water transportation	0.25	0.25	0.5
Cargo capacity	0.25	0.25	0.5

Indicator	Potential	Readiness	Total
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2) Technical and economic support services			
1) Extension	0.25	0.25	0.5
Extension worker/farmer ratio			
Extension systems used	0.25	0.25	0.5
Qualification of extension workers	0.25	0.25	0.5
Extension mobility incentives	0.25	0.25	0.5
In-service training	0.25	0.25	0.5
3) input supply systems			
Availability and accessibility to:			
- Improved genetic material	0.5	0.5	1
- Agro-inputs	0.5	0.5	1
- Implements and mechanization	0.25	0.25	0.5
4) Water infrastructure			
Irrigation dams	0.5	0.5	1
Livestock	0.5	0.5	1
Fisheries	0.25	0.25	0.5
5) Energy in for agriculture			
- % access of rural population with access to electricity		1.25	1.25
- other sources of energy		1.25	1.25
6) ICT			
- Availability and access to telecommunication facilities in rural areas		1.25	1.25
- access to radio broadcast		1.25	1.25

4) State of agricultural production, productivity performance and trends

Indicator	Potential	Readiness	Total
1) Cropping systems	0.312	0.312	0.625
Area under crop			
Productivity for major crops and industrial crops	0.812	0.812	1.625
Value of products	0.312	0.312	0.625
Food surplus/deficit	0.312	0.312	0.625
2) Livestock production systems	0.5	0.5	1
Area under livestock			
Type and number of livestock	0,5	0.5	1

Value of products		0.5	0.5
3) Fisheries			
Types of fishing system	1	1	2
Species and volume	1	1	2
Value of products		0.5	0.5
4) Crop-livestock integration	0.25	0.25	0.5

Indicator	Potential	Readiness	Total
5) Structure of agriculture Organizations			
- % of small scale indication of man, women and youth	0.25	0.25	0.5
Average size of plot/farm in each group		0.5	0.5
Number of farmer organizations and their capacity to advocate		0.5	0.5
Literacy of farm heads		0.5	0.5
Adoption of appropriate technologies		0.75	0.75
Willingness for self-help		0.5	0.5
6) Non-farm sector			
Proportion of rural population involved in RNFE		1.25	1.25
Proportion of rural income coming from RNFE		1.25	1.25

5. STI system

Indicator	Potential	Readiness	Total
1) Research human capacity			
Number of scientists/ 1000 people	1.5	1.5	3
2) Capacity of research institutions			
Coverage of research institutions	0.58	0.58	1.16
responsiveness to farmers` needs	0.58	0.58	1.16
Capacity of educational institutions to train researchers and agriculturalists	0.58	0.58	1.16
Staff turnover in research institutions	1.16		1.16
Functionality and appropriateness of research facilities	0.58	0.58	1.16
Existence of ethical policies and committees in research	0.58	0.58	1.16

3) Linkages agriculture, S&T generation and development institutions - Presence and effectiveness of linkages between research institutions-industry	0.5	0.5	1
Existence and effectiveness of coordination mechanisms among research institutions nationally, regionally and internationally	0.5	0.5	1
Out-scaling and up-scaling mechanisms		1	1
Approaches for technology generation		1	1

6. Agricultural research and development support policies

Indicator	Potential	Readiness	Total
1) Agricultural development policies - Vision,	2.08	2.08	4.166
- Mission,	2.08	2.08	4.166
- Policy: (Land, gender, water, ,...)	2.08	2.08	4.166
- Strategy: - sources of financing	2.08	2.08	4.166
- Action plans:-institutions, organizations, coordination mechanisms (local, national, regional,..), level of funding,	2.08	2.08	4.166
- Implementation, M&E and learning mechanisms	2.08	2.08	4.166

7. Regional integration

Indicator	Potential	Readiness	Total
Availability of regional trade activities	0.5	0.5	1
Rate and volume of the tariffs	0.5	0.5	1
Volume of trade	0.5	0.5	1
Facilitating mechanisms	0.5	0.5	1
Level Non Tariff Barriers	0.5	0.5	1