How to make agriculture for development into a reality: Perspective from a Family Foundation

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Agriculture for Development – Revisited
A World Bank-UC Berkeley CEGA-SPIA co-hosted event
Held at UC Berkeley, Seaborg Room, Faculty Club
October 1 and 2, 2010

Foundation Timeline

1997
Bill and Melinda read an article about rotavirus.

2000
Foundation officially created

2006
Warren Buffett decides to give Berkshire Hathaway stock. New Division – Agricultural Development Launched

2008
Policy & Statistics team added to Ag Development – (Market Access, Farmer Productivity, Science & technology)

Feb 2010: Sam Dryden becomes Director of Agricultural Development

How are we special?

• Family foundation actively guided by the Gates family and Warren Buffet
• Great faith in science and technology as levers for improving lives around the world
• Limited focus
• Young and willing to learn
• Beginning “Strategy Refresh” – Emerging from Startup Phase
• Accessible – many friends in the room
• Different staffing model from other donors

Core Objectives of the Foundation

• Improve the quality of life of poor people
  – Increased household income
  – Improved household food consumption (quantity and quality)
  – Improved child nutrition status
• Particular focus on the needs of women and small farmers
**Foundation Grantmaking Areas**

- **50%** Global Health
- **25%** Global Development
- **25%** United States

- ~$3 billion in grants in 2009; ~$23 billion since inception

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**Agricultural Development Core Principles**

- Focus on small farmers; most are women
- Work across the full agricultural value chain
- We are not an implementing foundation so must build strong partnerships

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**Four Initiatives within Agricultural Development**

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<tr>
<th>Science &amp; Technology</th>
<th>Farmer Productivity</th>
<th>Output Market Access</th>
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**Policy and Statistics**

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**Agricultural Development & Ag Policy and Statistics Grantmaking**

**Agricultural Development**

- Total Commitments in 2009: $380 m
- Total Commitments (2006-2009): $1,465 m
- Planned Payout in 2010: $320 m
- Average Grant size: $6 m
- Total Grants in Portfolio: 276
- Program Officers Responsible: 26

**Ag Policy & Statistics**

- Total Commitments (2008-2009): $111 million
- Average Grant size: $2 million
- Total Grants in Portfolio: 69
- Program Officers Responsible: 5

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**Total portfolio allocations for geography served (grants > $3 M)**

- Source: Unison, May 3, 2010, Sum of Commitment Amounts for grants >$3 million ($1.454 billion). *Other includes Europe, South America, Middle East Asia, Oceania, and North Africa.
Issues, Challenges, Puzzles

Evolving development assistance environment (Paris/CAADP)
- Role for centrally-staffed private foundation in country-based assistance framework

Fragility of the international Agricultural Research System
- CGIAR System Reform
  - How to strengthen CGIAR ss within an evolving structure?
  - Instability of National Research systems

Developing future Africa-based non-government grantees
- Overwhelming proportion of grants going to US-based organizations
- Improving the quality of African research
- Filling in the policy wheel / Strategy Coherence
- Sustainable funding of IPGs
- Reporting on the impact of policy & statistics investments

Ag Policy and Statistics Strategy Model:
Investments across the “policy wheel”

Policy & Statistics Goal: An Improved Policy Environment for Agriculture

Principles: Improve the evidence base that is required for better agricultural investment & policy decisions (data, statistics, analysis).
- Support analysis, outreach and advocacy for evidence-based decision-making.
- Invest across the “policy wheel,” including:
  - Data & statistics
  - Research & analysis
  - Advocacy and policy change
  - Policy implementation
  - Impact and learning

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Commitments to date</th>
<th>$111 mil</th>
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<td>2010 Pipeline</td>
<td>$24 mil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total w/ 2010</td>
<td>$135 mil</td>
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Agriculture for Development – Help!

Re-conceptualizing the role of agriculture for economic development
- Agriculture for Poverty Reduction
- Agricultural productivity, economic growth, and food security

Food price volatility and food security
- Managing domestic price instability
- Effects of Trade Protection during the Food Crisis

Technology adoption and a Green Revolution for Africa
- Barriers to Farm Profitability in India: Mechanization, Scale, and Credit Markets
- Adoption of high value crops in Africa

New Approaches to Rural Development—Impact evaluation of rural programs.
- Productive alliances and smallholder farmer competitiveness in high value crops.
- Use of IT in new approaches to extension

Structural transformations and income diversification
- Large farm-small farm debate
- Agriculture-Rural non-farm economy synergies
Technical Comments

I applaud the attention given to achieving credible estimates of the impact of technology on Poverty.
Are Investments Meeting Foundation Objectives?

- Key indicators of human well-being
  - Household Income
  - Household Food Consumption (quantity and quality)
  - Child Nutrition Status
- Long-run impacts
  - Costly to measure
  - Difficult to attribute to project activities
  - Intermediate indicators must be used to assess progress – M&E vs Impact
- Heavy reliance on project monitoring and theory of change

Impact and M&E

Foundation Language

Vision of Success / Impact Pathway (The model)

Output (deliverable)
Outcome (consequence of achieving an output)
Impact

Tools

M&E

Ex-ante Impact Assessment
Ex-post Impact Assessment

Diversity across countries: Winners

- Ghana
- Uganda
- Tanzania
- Nigeria

Diversity across countries: .... and losers

- Niger
- Senegal
- Eritrea
- Zambia

All data are preliminary
Fragile funding flows: The case of Burkina Faso

Recent Estimate of Adoption of CGIAR Crop Varieties in SSA

Program Officer Level Questions

- Should we invest in Yams research in W. Africa?
- How is the (WEMA/Pulse/Sorghum) project doing?
- How do we feasibly monitor diffusion?
- How do we feed Impact/M&E information back to biological scientists?
- How do we align CGIAR scientists, NARSs scientists, Seed Delivery institutions incentives to achieve impact?
- Is there some way to stabilize Ag research funding?
- How do we assess Division-Level (Agricultural Development) Impact on Poverty and Food Security?

Tactical Questions

- Who is the audience for the Impact Analysis?
  - Donors, Center Mgmt, Economics Profession, Consortium?
- Do we have, or can we collect necessary data?
  - How costly?
- How frequently do we do impact analysis?