



German NGO Forum on  
Environment and Development



# Agriculture in the Context of Global Food Security

*Synopsis of Seven Recent International Documents  
on Rural Development Strategies*



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on Rural Development Strategies**

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# A - Introduction

The rediscovery of agriculture as a motor for development is hardly breaking news. No wonder then that it has in the meantime found its way onto the international development agenda. On the institutional level, it is mirrored in numerous "new" development reports and initiatives. This trend has been further solidified in the recent past as hunger has been aggravated in many countries by the explosion of prices for staple foods. What these reports and initiatives have in common is the recognition of the key role played by agriculture in fighting hunger and poverty and the importance of agriculture as a motor for development of the entire country - usually with a geographical focus on Africa. This is where the greatest need and/or the greatest potential for development is seen. Aside from these fundamental commonalities, recipes for the development of rural areas as well as the visions they are based on vary greatly in many respects and are sometimes even contradictory.

The International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development, IAASTD, met with critical acclaim from civil society for dealing with the topic of agriculture much more thoroughly than had been ex-

pected from a government/institutional report. In contrast to the IAASTD, the results of the latest World Food Summit in Rome (June 2008) are sobering. The Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) presented at the summit by the UN and the Bretton Woods institutions met with great skepticism on the part of civil society. Civil society organizations are now faced with the fundamental question of where to position themselves in light of the many different reports, initiatives and strategies - how can they assess these various documents? The logical action to take is to make a detailed comparison of the different documents so that they may be more easily classified from a NGO perspective; so that clear demarcations can be made and most importantly, common positions can be found. This synopsis is meant as an aid to finding such positions.

Summarizing and evaluating documents of more than 300 pages inevitably leads to a reduction of issues and the neglect of less relevant topics (for example environmental questions). The thematic focus of this synopsis is on the issues (1) the fight against hunger and poverty; (2) marginalized groups (small-holder farmers, indigenous, women, etc.); (3) the importance placed upon technology and lo-

cal knowledge; (4) the relevance of trade and market aspects; as well as (5) the role of the public sector, the private sector and civil society.

While we were designing the synopsis, more than once we were confronted with the question of whether - and if so where - the reports and programs developed by civil society, particularly those of rural social movements, should be part of the comparison. We refer explicitly to these papers in the final evaluation and recommendations.

We would also like to make note of the fact that all documents at least make mention of most relevant issues. The true importance granted these issues is therefore sometimes difficult to grasp in a synoptic comparison of quotations. For this reason, we begin with a concise, overall assessment of the individual concepts followed by a schematic appraisal of individual issues. This is meant as an aid to grasping the essence of the concepts we have analyzed.

And of course the fact remains that this synopsis evaluates documents, not actual policy.

# B - The papers

## 1) Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme, CAADD (2003)

NEPAD (New Partnership for African Development) was adopted by the African Union (AU) as a comprehensive strategy for development and growth, with a focus on economic growth. CAADP is NEPAD's implementation program for the agricultural sector. It was developed under the aegis of the FAO – in close contact with the NEPAD Secretariat. Similar to NEPAD, CAADP has a very growth-oriented agenda (its main objective is 6% annual growth in the agricultural sector). CAADP's strategy is complemented firstly by NEPAD's African Plan of Action (last update 2008) and its focus on the sector agriculture and food security, CAADP and in particular the African Plan of Action are the basis for the G8 Africa strategy. Secondly, the program is supplemented by the regional agriculture and development programs ECOWAS & COMESA.

Brief assessment: CAADP's guiding principle is achieving general growth through increased productivity. The latter is to be attained by (1) massive expansion of irrigation projects with a one-sided focus on large-scale irrigation schemes; (2) road construction and (3)

promoting research and technology, incl. GMO. (Responsible: *Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa*, FARA with the support of, among others, the Gates Foundation; AU/NEPAD 2007 strategy paper: *Freedom to Innovate*.) Agribusiness is awarded central importance in the areas of political consulting, research and supply of purchased inputs. Around 2/3 of the spending planned until 2015 (altogether around 240 billion USD) is slotted for irrigation and road construction. Further objectives, such as for example fighting hunger, are supposedly to be achieved automatically as a result of this growth process, without aiming a strategy explicitly at specific target groups. Even the EU strategy for Africa, Advancing African Agriculture, expresses the opinion that CAADP is an extremely technocratic strategy that is mostly subordinate to the goal of presenting donors with "bankable investment projects" (AAA, p. 30).

## 2) Global Donor Platform on Rural Development, GDDPRD (2006)

This platform is a network of the major donors in the area of agriculture and rural development. Over 80% of global donor funds for rural areas are spent by members of this platform. Alongside the major donor countries and

their development institutions, multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, FAO, EU-DG DEV, IFAD and the OECD are also represented. The platform is particularly committed to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Therefore donor coordination and harmonization of activities in donor countries and receiving countries are the platform's main issues. Their objective is to make donor resources more effective.

Civil society has criticized in particular the fact that the platform is not anchored within the UN system. Accountability is unclear and democratic control is only possible indirectly through national ministries, making civil society interaction with the platform rather difficult.

Brief assessment: Both documents (*Joint Donor Rural Concept & Hot Topics*) are limited mostly to defining issues without taking a clear stand on them. They are therefore not particularly informative in many areas. For example, numerous issues are described as being important, but not evaluated. On the other hand, the voluntary nature of the strategies ("should guide donors," etc.) is repeatedly stressed. Therefore the relevance of these papers for practical, concrete donor policy must be questioned. Aside from the donor-specific strategy (harmonization), one can however make out a the-

matic focus on the issues of public private partnerships (PPP) and governance.

### 3) International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development, IAASTD (2008)

The so-called World Agrarian Council report, IAASTD, is the result of a broadly conceived multi-stakeholder consultation and research process in which not only UN organizations (FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP, WHO), GEF and the World Bank participate, but also 60 governments as well as the business world and civil society.

The assessment focuses on the role agricultural knowledge, technology and science play in the environmentally and socially sustainable development of agriculture and, in the opinion of the experts, where accents should be set in order to safeguard this development for the future.

**Brief assessment:** The central message of IAASTD is the “inescapable interconnectedness” of the different functions and roles – the multifunctionality – of agriculture. IAASTD’s guiding principle and objectives are therefore the close coordination of environmental and social concerns with increases in productivity. This triad is the connecting thread of IAASTD.

Furthermore, the report places great importance on traditional agricultural knowledge and

the sponsorship/control of knowledge and technology. To truly fight poverty and hunger, according to the report, peasant or community led research is of an essence.

### 4) World Bank World Development Report 2008, WDR 08 (2007)

Officially, the World Bank is part of the UN system; de facto the UN has no authority to issue directives. The World Bank is the largest multilateral donor and its annual World Development Reports have an enormous influence on international development discourse. After neglecting the issue for over 25 years, in 2008 for the first time the World Bank made agriculture the main topic of its World Development Report. This alone is a sign. Is it again worth investing in agriculture, now that natural resources such as land and water are becoming scarcer? Particularly when prices for agricultural goods are rising?

**Brief assessment:** Even if WDR 08 makes recommendations for three different “rural worlds,” there is one general drift: The further commercialization of agriculture is at the forefront of WDR 08. In this context, the focus is on the opportunities of a global and liberalized market. Development opportunities are seen in: (1) high-quality products that can be flexibly adjusted to meet niche market needs; (2) always using the newest technology; and (3) maybe also concentrating on “high potential areas.” All in all, the prognosis for the future of

marginalized small-holder farmers is bleak. WDR 08 proposes two development paths for this target group: Either they can keep up with commercialization through private risk insurance, microcredit systems and input markets, or they will be forced to migrate by the automatic sale of their land on the free land markets and will end up as uncompetitive producers in urban areas.

### 5) The European Union’s Advancing African Agriculture, AAA (2007)

The basis for the EU discussion paper on the promotion of and cooperation on the development of African agriculture is (1) the *European Consensus on Development* of November 2005, in which general guidelines for European development policy are set and (2) *European Union Strategy for Africa: Towards a Euro-African pact to accelerate Africa’s Development*, also from 2005.

AAA condenses the central statements made by both papers on agriculture and rural development and attempts to turn these into practical proposals for the African continent. AAA looks closely at CAADP and attempts to carry on where CAADP leaves off.

**Brief assessment:** The AAA has a distinct and one-sided focus on growth and increased productivity as vehicles for reaching the MDG 1 and 7. However despite its credo of growth, it also focuses clearly on small-holder agriculture

and the production of staple foods. Furthermore, national and regional markets are judged to be much more promising than global markets. The report is critical of deregulation and liberalization: In light of the only moderate success of the reforms of the past decades, the role of the state must be rethought, if not completely revamped. AAA recognizes the necessary prevalence of subsistence agriculture. This makes it unique.

### 6) Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, AGRA (2007)

AGRA is the brainchild of the Rockefeller Foundation, which also played the leading role in the Green Revolution of the 1960s. Together with the Gates Foundation, they have made it their mission to carry the Green Revolution to Africa. It is therefore no wonder that AGRA applauds CAADP's technocratic approach. And in fact, these two initiatives are very closely connected: Monty Jones is both director of ProGRA and executive secretary of FARA, the executive organ of the fourth pillar of CAADP (research and technology). Through further alliances such as WASA (West African Seed Alliance – this sounds African, but is actually a network of, in the main, USAID, PASS and ProGRA), AGRA attempts to gain influence on the policy-making level.

**Brief assessment:** One thousand new plant varieties should provide the basis for increased productivity in African agriculture. This is simultaneously a strategy to fight hunger. It should be implemented by a new generation of trained African seed breeders and the creation of a commercial distribution network for seed, fertilizer and agrochemicals that spans the entire continent (training so-called agro-dealers: the idea is that every roadside stand should also sell agricultural inputs). In this way, AGRA aims to harmonize the rules of seed trade across the continent and to dismantle barriers to planting new crop varieties. There is absolutely no critical review of the negative consequences of the Green Revolution in the 1960s.

### 7) High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis – Comprehensive Framework for Action, CFA (2008)

CFA is a reaction to the global price explosion of staple foods. It is an initiative derived by a consensus of the Hunger Task Force members appointed by the Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki Moon (UN organizations and Bretton Woods institutions). This initiative, presented in draft form at the last FAO Food Summit, is seen by some observers as a further devaluation of the FAO. They believe the FAO, as

a world food organization, should be paramount. However the task force has deprived the FAO of its leadership role in relation to the other UN organizations involved (WFP, UNICEF, UNCTAD, etc.) and in particular in relation to the World Bank, the WTO and IWF – a clear political signal. Furthermore, CFA gives the impression that it was designed with the participation of all UN institutions. However none of the relevant human rights institutions were involved in designing this strategy.

**Brief assessment:** The action program makes a distinction between short-term activities and long-term strategies; however these overlap in the main thematic areas. These are: (1) The focus on providing fertilizer and (“foreign”) seed to increase productivity (CFA's main means of fighting hunger) and (2) a clear focus on the further liberalization of international trade (focus on international markets). This strategy is supplemented by a call to support small-holder farmers. However it is unclear whether this support should be targeted or distributed using the shotgun approach. The importance of social safety nets is also stressed. In general it is disappointing that the anti-quoted ode to the global market as the saviour of productivity and food security is still being recited in unison by such a high level coalition.

# C - Overview of the relevance of central issues

	CAADP	GDPRD	AAA	AGRA	WDR 08	IAASTD	CFA
<b>Fight hunger and poverty</b>							
support small-holder farmers	0	+	+++	+	+	+++	+
increase productivity	+++	+	++	+++	+++	+	+++
<i>input markets</i>	+	+	+	+++	++	+	++
target group alignment (poor at the center)	-	0	+	+	-	++	0
social justice	/	++	/	/	0	++	/
safety nets	+	/	++	/	0	+	++
<b>Knowledge and technology</b>							
pro-GMO	++	+	-	++	++	--	0
pro-traditional knowledge	/	/	/	0	-	++	/
pro-IPR	++	+	/	/	+++	0	/
pro more formal research and technology	+++	+	+	+++	++	+	++
<b>Trade and markets</b>							
pro-trade liberalization	++	+	0	-	++	0	+++
pro-protection mechanisms	/	/	+	/	--	+	--
supports focus on local markets	+	+	+	+	+	++	+
supports focus on regional markets	++	+	++	++	+	+	+
supports focus on global markets	+	+	/	++	++	+	+++
<b>Public sector, private sector and civil society</b>							
for more public sector and regulation	0	+	++	/	0	++	+
for more participation	/	++	++	/	+	+++	/
for more private sector	++	++	+	+++	++	+	++
<i>agribusiness</i>	+++	/	-	+++	++	-	+
<i>PPP</i>	+	++	+	++	++	+	+
for more civil society participation	+	+	++	/	+	++	/
<b>Implements a gender perspective</b>	+	++	/	/	+	+	/
<b>Supports more agrofuel</b>	/	0	0	/	-	-	+
+++ highest priority	++ of central importance	+ relevant	0 positive and negative aspects or neutral	- negative	-- very negative	/ issue is not mentioned/does not play a role	

# D - Synopses of individual issues

## 1 Fighting hunger and poverty

### 1.1 Support small-holder farmers and target group alignment

Everyone is talking about supporting small-holder families. However the extent to which

this is followed by a focused, target group oriented strategy remains unclear. CFA, WDR 08 and CAADP deal mostly with general strategies such as for example better input markets for everyone. The question must therefore be asked whether despite all the lip service to the importance of small-holder agriculture, in reality commercial agriculture/large farms won't

be the ones to profit from road building and input markets. This concern is underlined by the fact that AGRA and WDR 08 focus their strategies on high potential areas, although it is the marginal areas that need help most. Only AAA and IAASTD explicitly stress target group alignment: the direct and targeted support of marginalized social groups (poor at the center).

CAADP	GDPRD	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
By accessing improved technology – much of which is simple and relatively low in cost – small farmers can <b>play a major role in increasing food availability</b> close to where it is most needed, raising rural incomes and expanding employment opportunities, as well as in contributing to a growth in exports. (p. 2)	as the “mainstream economic sector” drives growth, an important concern is <b>managing risk</b> in smallholder agriculture (e.g. through addressing vulnerability, improving incomes and food security, and through using both public and private instruments). (HT p.7)	for growth to have a poverty reducing effect, it needs to be broad-based, <b>small-holder oriented</b> and result in enhanced labour opportunities. (AAA p.4)	Lifting millions out of poverty and hunger by <b>increasing the productivity</b> and profitability of small-scale farms in Africa (AGRA brochure) (AGRA brochure)	The agenda for Sub-Saharan Africa is to enhance growth by <b>improving small-holder competitiveness</b> – higher potential areas, where returns on investment are highest, while simultaneously ensuring livelihoods and food security of subsistence farmers. (WEB p.20)	Significant pro-poor progress requires creating opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship, which <b>explicitly target</b> resource poor farmers and rural laborers. (SDM p12)	While the focus of publicly supported actions in the crisis is on smallholder farming, these actions will <b>greatly benefit larger farmers too</b> , especially the investments in “public goods” such as establishing a conducive framework for public and private investment, improvements to rural infrastructure, promotion of markets for agricultural inputs and produce, sustainable management of water, genetic and other natural resources, development of financial services and agricultural research and technology dissemination. (CFA p.27)
help <b>small farmers and agricultural enterprises</b> become more productive. (p.76)	Above all, there must be equity and <b>equal opportunity</b> for smallholder farmers in policy, planning and implementation. (JDR p.15)	For a positive impact on food security and rural productivity growth will need to be specifically important in <b>stable foods and among small scale producers</b> . (AAA p.7)	focus on directing infrastructure investments towards these <b>“bread basket areas”</b> . (Adelesina 2008)	The potential of agriculture to contribute to growth and poverty reduction depends on the productivity of small farms. (WEB p.37)	politics and institutional changes should be <b>directed primarily</b> at those who have been served least by previous AKST approaches, i.e., resource-poor farmers, women and ethnic minorities. (ES p.6)	<b>Making key inputs available</b> to the smallholder farmers in the near term (CFA p.17)
	Policy and investment options are needed that address the needs, priorities, and constraints of both <b>marginal areas and marginal populations</b> (HT p.7)					the HLPF will seek to mobilize the political, operational and financial support required to address effectively the structural factors of the crisis, including investing further resources in social protection and <b>reversing the under-investment trends</b> in world agriculture, <b>especially smallholder farming</b> , rural infrastructure and local market systems. (CFA p.38)

## 1.2 Increasing productivity

Not only do all the documents agree on increasing productivity in the agricultural sector, for most it is also their focus. With the exception of CAADP, an increase in production led

by small-holder farmers is particularly emphasized. This revolution in productivity should be achieved chiefly by improving input markets (especially fertilizer and seed).  
Only IAASTD contradicts the common tone: The one-sided focus on increasing productivity

has in the past already led to the neglect of social and environmental aspects. Instead of putting all emphasis on industrially produced inputs, IAASTD puts knowledge intensive production methods first. Its concept of knowledge includes traditional and local knowledge.

CAADP	GDDPRD	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
Improve the productivity of agriculture to attain an average <b>annual growth rate of 6 percent</b> (CAADP p.9)	/	Agricultural productivity and productivity growth in Africa have been lagging behind the world.[...] To achieve MDG targets, a <b>drastic increase in productivity</b> is needed. (AAA p.7)	<i>Siehe 1.1</i>	Getting agriculture moving [...] requires a small-holder-based <b>productivity revolution</b> centered on food staples but also including traditional and nontraditional exports. (WEB p.20)	increases in agricultural production over time, contributing to food security.[...] People have <b>benefited unevenly</b> from these yield increases (SDM p.8)  inadequacies in AKST arrangements were identified that often <b>privilege</b> [...] <b>productivity</b> over environmental and social sustainability and the multiple needs of the small-scale farm sector (SDM p.12)	Such measures must be complemented with [...] policies to <b>boost and sustain the productivity</b> of smallholder farmers. (CFA p.10)

## 1.3 Models of agricultural production

Basically, the papers contain two different agricultural models. One banks on commercialized agriculture: farming businesses that are competitive on national and international markets - often as suppliers for global supermarket chains - because they are highly flexible, adopt modern technologies and produce high-quality

products (key terms: contract farming and integration in the supply chain). This reduces agriculture to its standard economic variables. Social and environmental costs are externalized and, as we have seen in the past, must be borne by the general public. Furthermore, this model is targeted solely at the small minority of farmers that already have the potential to serve these markets and to modernize.

The contrasting agricultural model has at its core the production of food for local and regional markets (AAA and IAASTD). According to IAASTD, agroecological farming methods and cultivating traditional crops secure the sustainability of agriculture.

CAADP	GDDPRD	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
investing in irrigation becomes more worthwhile if productivity is also enhanced by application of improved technologies and yield-enhancing	It is also important to note that <b>increasing focus is being placed on value chains and the "supermarketisation"</b> of the rural economy. (IDRC p.10)	At the local level, <b>diversification</b> can be instrumental in reducing a number of farm-level risks, through the exploitation of crop synergies, the spreading of climatic and market risks, and the smoothing of seasonal labour peaks. (AAA p.12)	Developing a new generation of <b>commercial farmers</b> : The agriculture sector is rapidly ageing. [...] But [young generation farmers] will not take up agriculture if the sector remains subsistence-focused. The global agricultural markets are dynamic and there is rising demands for grades and standards, and greater specialization, and market intelligence. [...] There is need to therefore	The overall goal in using agriculture for development is to promote the <b>inclusion of smallholders in the new food markets</b> (WEB p.239)	The ecological footprint of industrial agriculture is already too large [...] Policies that promote sustainable agricultural practices (e.g. using market and other types of incentives to reward environmental services) stimulate more technology innovation, such as	there is a necessity to strengthen producer organizations which both reduces the costs for smallholders to <b>integrate into the evolving agricultural supply chains</b> , and improves their bargaining position for share of the food marketing

inputs. (CAADP p.53)	permarket chains are being introduced into developing markets and countries and value chain integration is occurring. This is very much tied to <b>high-value agriculture</b> . Platform members have identified these as important issues that donors should pay attention to. (HT p.9)	to benefit from the high value crops and niche market opportunities. The majority of small African exporters will <b>remain involved in traditional commodities</b> . (AAA p.9)	<b>promote agriculture as a business not just as a way of life</b> . [...] encourage young agricultural graduates to take up commercial agriculture. But supporting larger and commercial oriented farmers does not mean that the government should abandon smallholder farmers who still form the majority of the farming population. In addition, the government should create financial and investment incentives for private sector commercial investors in large scale agriculture. (Adesina 2008)	(WEB p.12)	With globalization and new supply chains, farmers and countries need to continually innovate to <b>respond to changing market demands</b> and stay competitive. (WEB p.158)	Grades and standards make it more difficult for smallholders acting alone to participate in these markets, giving rise to <b>contract farming</b> and collective action by <b>producer organizations</b> (WEB p.59)	<b>agroecological approaches and organic farming</b> to alleviate poverty and improve food security. (SDM p.33)	Many <b>traditional foods</b> , however, are rich in micronutrients and expanding their role in production systems and diet could have health benefits. (SDM p.19)	margins vis a vis often well organized and concentrated input supply and food marketing companies. (CFA p.27)
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### 1.4 Safety nets

Safety nets are again being widely discussed. However the papers all define safety nets quite differently. For example CAADP sees safety nets predominantly as crisis and catastrophe readiness. Basic and comprehensive social safety nets are not emphasized by WDR

08 either. Rather market-based safety systems such as for example risk insurance policies are highly regarded. CFA also emphasizes safety nets. This report favors targeted and conditional approaches. It propagates social support only for return services or for those who are no longer able to work (those who can work should receive support in the form of,

for example, food for work programs). Comprehensive social security systems are barely mentioned in the papers. Furthermore, the fact that hungry and needy people have rights - anchored in the UN Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - is concealed. The texts speak of needs, not of rights.

CAADP	GDPRD	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
The CAADP also pays attention to <b>emergencies and disasters</b> that require food and agricultural responses or safety nets: (CAADP p.1)	/	Agricultural policies therefore need stronger links with <b>social policies</b> (education, health, safety nets). (AAA p.5)	/	High risks of price volatility remain for both farmers and consumers in many agriculture-based countries and effective safety nets will <b>continue to be important until incomes rise or market performance improves</b> . (WEB overview p.12)	policy options include [...] <b>strengthen social safety nets</b> .	Scaling up productivity-enhancing safety nets (CFA p.4)
achieving an immediate impact on hunger also requires		many small farmers have a narrow asset base, which makes them extremely vulnerable to adverse conditions, requiring <b>external safety nets</b> (family, migration, government intervention) (AAA p.11)		Providing safety nets: Providing social assistance to the <b>chronic and transitory poor</b> can increase both efficiency and welfare. (WEB p.18)		the HLTF urges donor countries to double ODA for food assistance, other types of nutritional support and <b>safety net programs</b> . (CFA p.6)
		The creation of safety nets, whether they are				Social protection systems expanded. [...] identify <b>alternatives to</b>

<p>that the production-related investments be complemented by <b>targeted safety nets</b>. (CAADP p.4)</p> <p>There is a "sub-pillar" for emergencies and safety nets, requiring some US\$42 billion. (CAADP p.4)</p>	<p><b>productive or social</b> forms another direction in risk management strategies, particularly for the most vulnerable. Experiences have been obtained with the design and implementation of such safety nets which can be replicated in other settings, while various instruments (public works, vouchers, starter kits) can be applied when the safety net will need to be invoked. The use of contingency financing and/or index insurance products can be instrumental in obtaining quick disbursement for organisations responsible for "feeding" the safety nets, when adverse conditions strike. (AAA p.12)</p>	<p><b>Insurance to manage risk:</b> Risk distorts investments and puts assets in jeopardy. Insurance can assist farmers in taking more risks in production and prevent shocks from depleting their assets. (WEB p.147)</p> <p>Managing risk through microfinance (WEB p.148)</p>	<p><b>unconditional assistance</b> (CFA p.11)</p> <p><b>Protect basic consumption needs of the poor</b>, including unconditional transfers to vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and disabled, internally displaced persons, refugees, female headed households, orphaned and vulnerable children. (CFA p.15)</p> <p>A strengthening of <b>nationally sustained social protection</b> systems remains essential for achieving this goal, for reducing the number of hungry people, as per MDG 1, and for building resilience to future shocks. (CFA p.24)</p>
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### 1.5 Access to land and land reform

In the main, the documents deal with the question of land tenure mainly in connection with the security of land property rights, and the ability to buy and sell land (transferability). The massive problems connected to large-scale

projects (in Africa, particularly mining projects) and agribusiness, such as displacement processes and expulsions, are not mentioned in this connection. Questions of the socially responsible, just distribution of land - actively creating access to land for landless people, small-scale farmers and tenant farmers - are not dealt with,

as would be necessary in an approach based on rights. AAA and IAASTD are an exception, they do not make a connection between the right to food and the right to access to land - nor unfortunately do they mention the FAO guidelines on the right to food - but they do mention the just distribution of land and access to land.

CAADP	GDRRD	AAA	ACGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
<p>Reinforcement of national capacities for <b>land administration</b>, including those of local governments, to improve access to land and protect user rights; (Sun p.3)</p>	<p>A crucial area that also affects sustainable development is that of <b>land tenure security</b> (including titling, gender-related concerns, the <b>economic effects of land-titling programmes, and land tenure within market-oriented development</b>). (HT p.7)</p>	<p>The public sector also plays a crucial role in land policy and land administration. Land policy addresses <b>issues of security and distribution</b> of land rights, land use and land management, and access to land, including the forms of tenure under which it is held. [...] While drawing up a national land policy is the responsibility of the state, it will need to <b>build on and respond to the concerns of many nonstate actors, including traditional authorities</b>. (AAA p.6)</p>	<p><b>Land markets, particularly rental markets</b>, can raise productivity, help households diversify their incomes, and facilitate exit from agriculture. [...] But in many countries, insecure property rights, poor contract enforcement, and stringent legal restrictions limit the <b>performance of land markets</b>, creating large inefficiencies in both land and labor reallocation [...] Targeted subsidies to facilitate <b>marketbased land reform</b> are used in Brazil and South Africa, and lessons must be derived from these pioneering experiences for potential wider application. (WEB p.9)</p>	<p>Important options for enhancing rural livelihoods include <b>increasing access by small-scale farmers to land</b> [...] Policy options for improving livelihoods [...] legal frameworks that ensure access and tenure to resources and land; recourse to fair conflict resolution; (ES p.7)</p>	<p><b>Supporting land tenure security programs</b> (CFA p.43)</p> <p><b>Secure access</b> to and better management of natural resources, including land, water, and biodiversity (CFA p.12)</p>	<p>Creating such opportunities requires <b>more targeted changes</b>, such as providing poor farmers in developing countries with infra-structural and institutional support (e.g. access to land and water (SDM p.26)</p>

## 2 Knowledge and technology

### 2.1 Traditional/Local knowledge

With the exception of IAASTD, traditional or local knowledge is granted little importance. Either it is not mentioned at all (CFA) or, as in

GDDR, building on farmer's knowledge is seen only as a useful source for external/un-associated research.

CAADP	GDDR	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
/	Rural development Partnerships – whether they are multisectoral or a combination of public, private, and civil society partnerships – should <b>build on, and expand</b> , the existing skills and knowledge available within households, communities, and rural institutions. (IDRC p.15)	/	/	(In those chains [high-value products and supply chains], <b>innovation may be less dependent on local R&amp;D</b> because the technology for many high-value products is less location-specific than that for traditional staples (WEB p.171))	Traditional and local knowledge constitutes an extensive realm of accumulated practical knowledge and knowledge-generating capacity that is needed if sustainability and development goals are to be reached. (ES p.20)	/
					Advances in AKST and a <b>focus on local knowledge</b> could reduce the reliance of agriculture and the food chain on fossil fuels for agro-chemicals, machinery, transport and distribution. (SDM p.34)	

### 2.2 Research

CAADP, AGRA, WDR 08 and CFA place central importance on formal research. More money for research and innovation are seen as the basis for increased productivity and competitiveness. Additionally, institutional innovation is also deemed necessary (revamping the research system): PPPs as a suitable method to obtain more money and more "demand-driven

research." AAA and IAASTD depart from this path. AAA believes national research institutions are better suited to meeting farmers' needs and therefore also suggests increasing state budgets for research. Both papers stress the importance of participative research to be better able to meet farmers' needs. More public sector and participation: This should simultaneously improve access to technologies (AAA: public goods; sponsorship). IAASTD places less im-

portance on formal research, it states that there is already a large body of knowledge not drawn on and many cultivation techniques not implemented. IAASTD emphasizes close cooperation in formal research with small scale farmers already involved in the phase of identifying research goals. New is that most papers discuss so-called orphan food crops - traditional crops long ignored by modern science.

CAADP	GDDR	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
<b>Pillar for Priority Investment:</b> Agricultural Research, Technology Dissemination and Adoption (CAADP p.V)	In many countries, government-driven agricultural research and extension systems have been weak	Key elements for agricultural development in Africa include the <b>strengthening of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS)</b> , as well as of regional research and knowledge systems; capacity building in defining research agendas; strengthening research linkages with producers (responsiveness to research needs; dissemination of results); empowering agricultural producers and their organizations; fostering public-private research cooperation, as well as cooperation with	<i>Stiehe 2.3</i> AGRA recently launched a programme to bolster agricultural research by funding more graduate-level	<b>sharply increased investments</b> in R&D must be at the top of the policy agenda. (WEB p.14)	Achieving development and sustainability goals would entail increased funds and <b>more diverse funding mechanisms</b> for agricultural research and development and associated knowledge systems (ES p.11)	Invest in agricultural research on food crops, animal production, and inland fisheries. (CFA p.28) Such measures must be complemented

<p><b>Contracting out research</b> and establishing public-private partnerships can help open the research system to more actors. (CAADP p.65)</p>	<p>ened considerably over the last two decades. These institutions need to be rebuilt as <b>joint ventures between public and private stakeholders</b> along certain guidelines (IDRC p.12)</p>	<p>civil society; promoting harmonization and strategic prioritization of research agendas; (AAA p.23)</p>	<p>training for a new generation of African agricultural scientists. The programme expects to support an additional 170 M.Sc. and 80 Ph.D. plant scientists within five years. (AGRA at work)</p>	<p><b>innovation</b> along the value chain. (WEB p.15)</p> <p>While investment in <b>public R&amp;D</b> organizations <b>remains</b> important, the public sector cannot do it alone. Science-driven and linear research-extension-farmer approaches—in which public research systems generate technologies disseminated through largely public extension systems to farmers—worked well in some contexts (the green revolution). But they work less well in meeting today's rapidly changing market demands, especially for high-value and value-added products. Nor are they suited to more heterogeneous contexts, as in rained areas of Sub-Saharan Africa, where more comprehensive approaches are needed to secure development and adoption of technological innovations. (WEB p.170)</p>	<p><b>Participatory</b> collaboration in knowledge generation and innovation has been shown to add value to science-based technology development, for instance in Farmer-Researcher groups in the Andes, in Participatory Plant Breeding. (ES p.20)</p> <p><b>Investment in the resilience of local innovation systems</b> should increase the equity of AKST outcomes. (SDM p.23)</p>	<p>with <b>significantly increased investments</b> in agricultural technology research (CFA p.10)</p> <p>Specific efforts should be made to develop research on <b>orphan food crops</b> such as the tropical roots and tubers (cassava, yams), and neglected grains (millet, sorghum); (CFAp.28)</p>
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### 2.3 Seeds and IPR

Intellectual Property Rights are an important issue, especially in CAADP and WDR 08. Strong IPR together with low barriers to introducing new varieties and pesticides are important incentives for private sector investments in agriculture. Farmers' access to seed should be much more regulated by the market. The diversity of tradi-

tional varieties and local seed exchange systems are often mentioned, but remain unimportant. The World Bank even calls the free exchange of seeds and knowledge, as well as local propagation and replanting of improved purchased varieties, "market failures." This is congruent with the impression given by its report that Africa has no suitable existing seed system. However it is the African continent in

particular that (still) offers a large diversity of cultivated species and land races of traditional cultivars, which have a high potential for improved yields. IAASTD is the only document that critically analyses the problems that accompany patents and other IPRs on plants and seeds, and stresses the importance of local control over seeds.

CAADP	GDPRD	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
<p><b>Protecting intellectual property rights:</b> While rules about intellectual property rights (IPRs) are controversial, such rules are becoming increasingly important as the role of the private</p>	<p>/</p> <p>(siehe 3.1)</p>	<p>/</p>	<p>focus on <b>developing more productive and resilient varieties</b> of Africa's major food crops, adapted to thrive in a variety of conditions. These will enable Africa's small-scale farmers to produce larger, more diverse and reliable harvest</p>	<p>Why agricultural R&amp;D is underfunded: Public investment is especially important for funding agricultural R&amp;D where <b>markets fail</b> because of the difficulty of appropriating the benefits. Seeds of many improved varieties can be reused by farmers and sold or shared with neighboring farmers (nonexcludable). Information on improved management practices can be freely exchanged (nonrival). <b>Intellectual property rights (IPRs) have partially overcome these market failures</b> in industrial countries, but few technologies of importance to poor farmers can be cost-effectively protected by IPRs. A major exception is private</p>	<p>In developing countries especially, instruments such as <b>patents</b> may drive up costs, restrict experimentation by the individual farmer or public researcher while also potentially under</p>	<p>Siehe 2.4</p>

<p>sector in international agricultural research grows and biotechnology becomes more important. Clear rules protecting IPRs are important: they encourage domestic innovation and encourage the transfer of technologies based on assurance that the recipient country will provide protection for patents and corporate health. (CAADP p.65)</p>	<p>(AGRA at work)</p> <p>An important AGRA initiative is the development of new crop varieties that will [...] dramatically increase farmers' yields. [...] Our goal is to <b>develop 1000 new varieties as rapidly</b> as possible. (AGRA Statement on Plant Breeding and Genetic Engineering)</p> <p>AGRA is also developing an initiative to support innovative extension services that can help small-scale farmers adopt new crop varieties (AGRA at work)</p>	<p>sector investment in hybrid seed of a few crops where intellectual property can be protected by trade secrets. Farmers must purchase hybrid seed frequently to maintain its yield advantage, providing a steady market for private seed companies. (WEB p.166)</p> <p>IPRs [...] could help to support a maturing <b>commercial seed industry</b>. [...] countries could do more to adapt IPR legislation to their needs within the guidelines of current international treaties. For example, a country could provide <b>strong protection for commercial crops</b> as an incentive for private investment [...] sharply increased capacity of the public sector, private firms, and farmers is needed to design and build credible and cost-effective IPR systems that fit a country's needs. (WEB p.167)</p> <p>More could be done to stimulate private investment in R&amp;D by improving the environment for private innovation—say, through <b>stronger IPRs</b> for inventions for commercial crops and <b>lower barriers</b> to the import and testing of technologies. (WEB p.169)</p>	<p>mining local practices that enhance food security and economic sustainability. (ES p.14)</p> <p>Regimes of intellectual property rights (IPR) that protect farmers and <b>expand participatory plant breeding and local control over genetic resources</b> and their related traditional knowledge can increase equity. (SDM p.23)</p>
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## 2.4 (Modern) technology, genetic engineering

Biotechnology, a term that includes GMO, is estimated by AGRA, WDR 08 and CAADP to

be key to solving the problem of poverty. IAASTD and, surprisingly, CFA are critical of this complicated technology: aside from the environmental impact, these cost-intensive technologies have helped richer farmers most,

not the poor. There have as yet been no convincing successes with GMO plants for tropical agriculture that help the poor.

CAADP	GDDPRD	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
<p>Agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption. This long-term pillar, which aims at <b>achieving accelerated gains in productivity</b>, will require: (a) an enhanced rate of <b>adoption</b> for the most promising available technologies, to support the immediate expansion of African production through the more efficient linking of research and extension systems to producers; (b) <b>innovations to farmers and agribusinesses</b>, thereby making increased adoption possible, notably through the appropriate use of new information and communication technologies; (c) renewing the ability of agricultural research systems to efficiently and effectively generate and adapt new knowledge and technologies, <b>including biotechnology</b>, to Africa, which are</p>	<p>Platform members identified specifically the issues surrounding living modified organisms, genetically modified organisms, and the development of transgenic materials. They also noted the need to <b>increase poor people's access to biotechnology</b>. (HT p.11)</p>	<p>/</p>	<p><b>conventional breeding is our starting point</b>. However, we also know that science and society are continually evolving. AGRA itself will be funding initiatives that strengthen Africa's scientific capacity at a number of levels. We do not preclude future funding for genetic engineering as an approach to crop variety improvement when it is the most</p>	<p>Revolutionary advances in biotechnology offer potentially <b>large benefits</b> to poor producers and poor consumers. (WEB p.15)</p> <p>Biotechnology thus has great promise [...] it is urgent to <b>increase public investments</b> in propoor traits and crops at international and national levels (WEB p.163)</p> <p>Though transgenics have been taken up more rapidly in commercial farming, they have <b>considerable potential for improving the productivity of smallholder farming systems</b> and providing more nutritious foods to poor consumers in</p>	<p>Technologists, such as high-yielding crop varieties, agrochemicals and mechanization have primarily <b>benefited the better resourced groups</b> in society and transnational corporations, rather than the most vulnerable ones. (SDM p.32)</p> <p>Hence assessment of modern biotechnology is lagging behind development; informa-</p>	<p>GMO-based hybrid seed [...] requires farmers to purchase seeds for each cropping season. GMOs require large capital investments and GMO development has generally been oriented towards large-scale commercial agriculture. (CFA p.29)</p> <p>For most smallholder farmers, emphasis will, in the short run, remain on transferring <b>existing, under-utilized technological options</b> that are relatively low cost while countries further assess the issues related to</p>

<p>needed to increase output and productivity while conserving the environment; and (d) mechanisms that reduce the costs and risks of adopting new technologies. (CAADP p.3)</p> <p><i>Verweis auf NEPAD-Papier Freedom to Innovate; FARA</i></p>		<p>appropriate tool to address an important need of small-scale farmers (AGRA Statement on Plant Breeding and Genetic Engineering)</p> <p><i>Verweis auf PASS</i></p>	<p>developing countries. However, the environmental, food safety, and social risks of transgenics are controversial, and transparent and <b>cost-effective regulatory systems that inspire public confidence</b> are needed to evaluate risks and benefits case by case. (WEB p.177)</p>	<p>tion can be anecdotal and contradictory, and <b>uncertainty on benefits and harms is unavoidable.</b> (ES p.14)</p>	<p>GMOs based on growing international experience. (CFA p.29)</p> <p><i>Ider CFA Drufh war gegenüber GMO kritischer!</i></p>
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### 3 Trade and markets

#### 3.1 Trade, liberalization and special safeguards

Global trade liberalization is another pet subject of many of the organizations in-

volved. CAADP, WDR 08 and CFA all swear by it. These texts lack a credible analysis of the negative effects of the liberalization policy of the past decades, in particular for food production on small-scale farms. In contrast, AAA at least opens the problems of liberalization policy to scrutiny. IAASTD clearly states

some of the negative effects on small-scale farmers. It is the only paper to mention the necessity of safeguard mechanisms as an important tool to defend smallholders from dumping practices.

CAADP	GIDPRD	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
<p>Establish and maintain a sound macro-economic policy framework and an <b>open economy</b> based on continued and enhanced economic reforms, <b>liberalised exchange and trade systems and investment regimes</b> (CAADP p.11)</p> <p>Remove obstacles to cross-border trade and investment, including</p>	<p>Rural development and agriculture are also influenced by regional and international trading agreements, including those produced under the guidance of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other trade-related bodies and fora. Above all, coherent frameworks and policies are needed, as are effective implementation mechanisms at the national level. (IDRC p.13)</p>	<p>While Africa has a long history of often costly state intervention in agriculture with mixed levels of effectiveness, subsequent liberalisation processes have also <b>not</b> been complete, convincing and/or successful. (AAA p.4)</p>	<p>AGRA will advocate for policies [...] that address trade and tariffs. (AGRA about)</p> <p>Such policies may address high taxes and tariffs that raise the prices of agricultural inputs (AGRA at work)</p>	<p><b>Advancing global trade liberalization</b> is not easy, as demonstrated by the Uruguay and Doha Rounds of trade negotiations. Vested interests strongly defend many current policies and are reluctant to change. Most past policy reforms have come from unilateral reform efforts, which will continue to be important in the future, but multilateral and regional agreements remain important instruments to <b>remove distortions in international and regional markets.</b> (WEB p.110)</p> <p>The Doha Development Round of trade negotiations provides an opportunity to realize at least part of the potential <b>gains of full trade liberalization.</b> (WEB p.110)</p>	<p>The estimated impacts of full trade liberalization are substantial for developing-country trade and agricultural output growth. Full trade liberalization is expected to increase international commodity prices by 5 percent on average, developing-country share in global agricul-</p>	<p>The small-scale farm sector in the poorest developing countries is a <b>net loser</b> under most trade liberalization scenarios that address this question [who benefits from GDP growth]. These differentiation in policy frameworks call for frameworks as embraced by the Doha work plan (special and differential treatment and non-reciprocal access). (SDM p.13)</p> <p>There is growing concern that opening national agricultural markets to international competition before basic institutions and infrastructure are in place <b>can undermine the agricultural sector</b>, with long term negative effects for poverty,</p> <p>A key challenge in the context of the food crisis is the speed, sequencing and nature of trade liberalization in agriculture. While trade liberalization <b>enhances export and income</b> generation opportunities for farmers in developing countries, policies to <b>encourage efficient and competitive smallholder production</b> and increased investment in the agricultural sector need to be put in place or strengthened. (CFA p31)</p> <p>Rapidly <b>complete the Doha Round</b> of trade negotiations to provide an enhanced set of agreed rules for a more transparent and fair international trading system. (CFA p.31)</p> <p>Actions: Review trade and taxation policy options [...] Avoid generalized food subsidies, minimize use of</p>

<p>harmonising tax and investment codes to promote <b>regional integration</b>. (CAADP p.11)</p>	<p>Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), and foreign direct investment (FDI) in agriculture and the food sector are all issues that Platform members highlighted as <b>issues warranting attention</b>. (HT p.10)</p>	<p>of their production versus other producers and on the supply response at world scale. Market shares abandoned by OECD countries in the past have been taken up by other exporters. Currently African producers face strong competition from major emerging exporters, while their trade preferences are prone to erosion. (AAA p.10)</p>	<p>tural trade by about 9 percentage points. (WEB p.117)</p> <p>While there is less domestic price and trade policy exploitation of farmers in developing countries now than in the 1980s, it has not disappeared. Net taxation of agriculture is low in all but a few countries. But disaggregating net taxation by exportable and import-competing products shows that <b>exports are still heavily taxed in many countries, while some imports are heavily protected</b>. This suggests <b>room for further welfare gains</b>. (WEB p103)</p>	<p>food security and the environment. (ES p.19)</p> <p>streamline and improve provision of legitimate <b>anti-dumping measures</b> and provide <b>temporary protection</b>. (SDM p.30)</p>	<p>export restriction, reduce restrictions on use of stocks, <b>reduce import tariffs, improve efficiency of trade facilitation</b>, temporarily reduce VAT and other taxes. (CFA p.47)</p> <p>Reduce/eliminate agricultural trade distortions, in particular <b>subsidies and market restrictions, in higher income countries</b> which undermine incentives for farmers in lower income countries and impede <b>progress on the broader free trade agenda</b>. (CFA p31)</p>
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### 3.2 Markets (local, national, global)

Export markets as a profit opportunity for small-scale agriculture: CAADP and WDR 08 believe in them. CFA also accords the global mar-

ket the function of ensuring national food security. In light of the latest price explosions in the poorest countries in particular, putting too much emphasis on export markets and making the food security of a poor country dependent upon food

imports can be a dangerous strategy. Similar to 3.1; on this issue as well AAA and IAASTD are critical of an orientation towards the world market that is too one-sided.

CAADP	GDRRD	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
<p>The primary CAADP goal is agriculture-led development that eliminates hunger, reduces poverty and food insecurity, opening the way for <b>export expansion</b>. (CAADP Sum p.2)</p>	<p>when devising pro-poor rural development strategies it is important to consider the role played by markets and value chains – from the local to the international. (IDRC p.13)</p>	<p>Removal of regional trade barriers is particularly important to allow for faster rates of growth for food staples, which is likely to have significant poverty alleviation effects. (AAA p.10)</p>	<p>AGRA will also explore ways to improve competitiveness of African farm produce in <b>global markets</b> (AGRA at work)</p>	<p>With globalization and new supply chains, farmers and countries need to continually innovate to respond to changing market demands and stay competitive. (WEB p.158)</p>	<p><b>Intensive export oriented agriculture</b> has increased under open market operations but has been accompanied by <b>both benefits and adverse consequences</b> depending on circumstances such as exportation of soil nutrients and water, unsustainable soil or water management, or exploitative labor conditions in some cases. (SDM p.13)</p>	<p>International food markets improved (CFA p.30)</p> <p>The recent combination of export restrictions and severed access to existing food stocks, compounded by subsidy and biofuel policies of major exporters, has contributed to undermining that confidence. This could <b>threaten continued progress</b> toward a fair and equitable international trade system <b>as countries consider refocusing on national food self sufficiency</b>, based solely on domestic production and stocks – policies which in the past have generally undermined agricultural growth and have had <b>limited success</b> in actually addressing the desired national food security objectives. (CFA p.10)</p>
<p>Expanded technical support for Regional Economic Organizations aimed at enhancing their capacity to <b>promote intra-regional trade</b> in farm products, (CAADP p.54)</p>		<p>most agricultural produce from Africa will continue to be brought to <b>domestic and regional markets</b>. [...] Priority will therefore be to improve marketing processes at the national and regional levels, [...] and ensuring that marketing structures are favourable to passing on fair prices to producers. (AAA p.9)</p>		<p>Far-reaching changes in domestic and global markets are creating <b>big opportunities</b> for farmers and agribusiness entrepreneurs. (WEB p118)</p>	<p>strengthening local markets; (ES p.8)</p>	<p>countries should not assume that a mandatory system of national food self-sufficiency will improve food security for the poor, particularly if based on policies which reduce incomes of small farmers growing non-basic food crops and which reduce employment in processing and marketing of high value crops. (CFA p18)</p>

## 4 Public sector, private sector and civil society

### 4.1 Public sector

Should the state only provide a legal framework, or should it also get directly involved in providing real services to farmers? In one re-

spect, CFA takes this question one step further: government has obligations stemming from, among other things, the right to food. Government may also fulfill these obligations by setting political frameworks, but not exclusively. This perspective is not shared by the other papers. However IAASTD and AAA do both see the role of government as more com-

prehensive for similar reasons: In contrast to market mechanisms, public sector activities can ensure that marginalized groups benefit from development. CAADP, GDRPD and WDR 08 on the other hand reduce the role of government to the creation of regulatory frameworks and infrastructure - in particular in order to encourage private sector investments.

CAADP	GDRPD	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
The role of governments should be more on the <b>policy reforms</b> so that investors feel secure and are therefore encouraged to bring back the profits in the country or region (CAADP p.77)	public sector provides <b>regulatory framework</b> and policies (JDRC p.15) <i>Siehe 4.2</i>	While agriculture is largely a private sector activity, it requires public sector and donor involvement for several reasons. <b>First</b> , pro-poor growth is <b>unlikely to be achieved by market forces alone</b> . <i>Second</i> , the use of natural resources in agriculture implies the existence of environmental externalities, requiring <b>public regulation and intervention</b> in order to maintain sustainability. <i>Third</i> , there are high transaction costs and risks in agriculture, resulting in the prevalence of market failures. (AAA p. 4)	/	The nation state remains responsible for creating an <b>enabling environment</b> for agriculture-for-development agenda, because only the state can establish the fundamental conditions for the private sector and civil society to thrive: macro-economic stability, political stability, security, and the rule of law (WEB p.246)	<b>Strong government</b> capacity to understand and where necessary regulate the private sector is needed: for instance through monitoring systems and enforcement of rules, which will help avoid conflicts of interest in AKST decision making. (SDM p.24)	<b>States have obligations</b> to ensure everybody enjoys the right to food and freedom from hunger without discrimination, to take steps to achieve the full realization of this right, and to refrain from regressive measures. Accordingly, <b>national governments are at the center of the response</b> and are joined by private entities, farmer/producer organizations, civil society organizations, regional political and financial bodies, donor agencies and United Nations and Breton Woods institutions. (CFA p.36)
			Rolling back the boundaries of the state [...] <b>Contracting out</b> is suitable for functions that require public finance but not necessarily public provision. (WEB p.252)	In general, public funding is more able to incorporate the <b>interests of the underprivileged</b> and the environment than private sources of funding. (SDM p.16)	Governments will continue to play an important role in providing public goods, <b>assuring equitable access</b> to AKST and creating an enabling policy and institutional environment. The political economy and good governance are important determinants in mobilizing resources for AKST; (SDM p.37)	More broadly, there is a need to further improve governance throughout agricultural and food systems at local, regional and global levels in order to improve effectiveness and quality of investments and results. (CFA p.27)
			There is now general agreement that the state must invest in <b>core public goods</b> , such as agricultural R&D, rural roads, property rights, and the enforcement of rules and contracts (WEB p.247)	Government capacity to understand and where necessary regulate the private sector is needed: for instance through monitoring systems and enforcement of rules, which will help avoid conflicts of interest in AKST decision making. (SDM p.24)	Government capacity to understand and where necessary regulate the private sector is needed: for instance through monitoring systems and enforcement of rules, which will help avoid conflicts of interest in AKST decision making. (SDM p.24)	Where input markets are not working, input distribution contracts with existing private dealers, NGOs, projects and <b>government services</b> are an alternative. (CFA p.18)
			The state—through enhanced capacity and new forms of governance— <b>corrects market failures, regulates competition</b> , and engages strategically in public-private partnerships to promote competitiveness in the agribusiness sector and support the greater inclusion of smallholders and rural workers. (WEB p.8)	<b>Strong government</b> capacity to understand and where necessary regulate the private sector is needed: for instance through monitoring systems and enforcement of rules, which will help avoid conflicts of interest in AKST decision making. (SDM p.24)	<b>Strong government</b> capacity to understand and where necessary regulate the private sector is needed: for instance through monitoring systems and enforcement of rules, which will help avoid conflicts of interest in AKST decision making. (SDM p.24)	Increased <b>public research and extension</b> investment (Watson 2008 p.22)
						Increased <b>public research and extension</b> investment (Watson 2008 p.22)

## 4.2 Private sector

The private sector is seen as the central agent of the development of agriculture. Private sector investments, and the expansion of the operational sphere of the private sector to also include tasks that were previously under the aegis of the state, seem to be without alternative. Only AAA and IAASTD ex-

press another opinion. In the past, the private sector filled the vacuum left by the state - solely in "high potential areas." Market mechanisms did not function as they were meant to in theory. Neither will the power of continuously growing multinational companies contribute to making market mechanisms work for the poor and the hungry. CFA even reverses the problem: The "private sec-

tor faces many risks when dealing with smallholders." The risks faced by small-scale farmers when they interact with the private sector, particularly with agribusiness, are disregarded (debt, dependency, etc.). In general, on this issue small-scale agriculture is either included in the definition of the private sector or contrasted with it as needed.

CAADP	GDDR	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA			
The large-scale formal private sector - particularly agri-business - is in a number of countries of the Region probably the major development partner for smallholder producers. Future progress depends on a <b>broad-based and equitable expansion</b> of these relations - something that will only happen on the basis of mutual interest. The commercial private sector wants to make money. It can do so - and at the same time help poor farmers make more money - if it expands its commercial relations into a realm of self-organised smallholders who are aware of market options. More and more governments in Africa recognise the crucial role that the private sector must play, and are willing to undertake investments - in policies, institution-building as well in infrastructure - which reduce the transaction costs that the private sector faces in doing business with smallholder producers. (CAADP p.19)	Increasingly, private sector resources are interlinked with rural livelihoods. Where the public sector provides regulatory frameworks and policies, the private sector can, and should, provide the productive investments necessary. (IDRC p.15)	Market failures occurred in quite some cases with a state monopoly being replaced by a private one and with the private sector often not expanding as expected in input and output markets, <b>especially in marginal areas</b> . These experiences, as well as the early years of the Green Revolution, question the scope and pace of the reform processes in Africa, point at the need to reflect on a <b>re-positioning in the role of the state</b> , as well as finding a better way of state functioning with an aim of crowding-in private sector investments. (AAA p.6)	/	The emerging new agriculture is <b>led by private entrepreneurs</b> in extensive value chains linking producers to consumers and including many <b>entrepreneurial smallholders</b> supported by their organizations. [...] The private sector drives the <b>organization</b> of value chains that bring the market to smallholders and commercial farms. (WEB p.8)	private funding <b>complements</b> public sector funds. (SDM p14)	Private firms both large and small have been and will in the future continue to be major suppliers of inputs and innovations to commercial and subsistence farmers and can therefore make major contributions toward meeting development and sustainability goals. They will rarely provide public goods or supply goods and services for which there is no market. (SDM p.38)	To make the best use of private investments in AKST, government regulations are needed to <b>address negative externalities and monopolistic behavior</b> and to support good environmental practices, while at the same time providing firms with incentives to invest in pro-poor AKST. (SDM p.38)	It is necessary to <b>immediately</b> scale up public spending and private investment. This will be critical to creating a conducive policy, institutional and physical environment for private sector involvement and investments, in order to ensure the longer-term recovery of agriculture as a viable sector of a country's economy. (CFA p.5)	sustained access to competitive, transparent and private-sector-led markets for food produce and quality inputs [...] Include private-sector-based networks of agricultural input dealers (e.g. seed, fertilizer, equipment, animal feed) (CFA p.29)

## 4.3 Agribusiness

None of the papers integrate agribusiness into the public sector development strategy

as massively and openly as CAADP. But WDR 08 and CFA also see agribusiness exclusively positively and make no reference to the potential negative consequences of unregulated

agribusiness. AAA and IAASTD in contrast speak explicitly of the problems of market power and negotiating power as well as of the creation of agribusiness monopolies.

CAADP	GDDR	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
<i>Siehe 4.2</i> giving farmers, <b>agribusi-</b> <b>nesses</b> and other <b>clients</b> a <b>much greater role in</b> <b>funding and governing</b> <b>the [research] system.</b> (CAADP p.68)	/	Large <b>supermarkets</b> are playing an increasingly dominant role in controlling access to international and also to domestic retail markets and buy at conditions which are often <b>difficult</b> to fulfil for smaller farmers. [...] Contract farming has created links for small-holders to the international market and facilitated quality improvement, but also created new forms of <b>dependency</b> and obligations. These novel relationships risk becoming factors of market exclusion for many (small) farmers, unless farmers and their organisations build capacity to benefit from them. (AAA p.9)	/	A dynamic private agribusiness sector linking farmers and consumers can be a <b>major driver of growth</b> in the agricultural and the rural nonfarm sectors. But growing agribusiness concentration may reduce its efficiency and poverty reduction impacts. (WEB p.135)	<i>Siehe 4.2</i>	Increasing investment and loans to agribusiness and finance services in rural areas (CFA p.49)
			As in research, building demand is part of successful <b>extension</b> . Management may become the responsibility of farmer or agribusiness organizations rather than local governments. (WEB p.174)			

#### 4.4 PPP

Public Private Partnerships, PPP: the solution to all of governments' money worries? That (in somewhat abbreviated form) is how this issue is presented in the texts. Two central areas are supposed to be particularly suited for PPP: input mar-

kets (especially in marginal areas, where high transportation costs should be carried by the state) and research. In the papers, the boundaries between the public and the private sector are fluid. It remains an open question whether governments are able to define these boundaries and whether they are able to safeguard public inter-

ests against the interests of the private sector. All papers link the problem of limited state capacity/governance with the necessity of developing a booming PPP sector. However the documents vary in the importance they accord PPP: CAADP, GDDR, AGRA and WDR 08 see great potential in PPP and similar "institutional innovations."

CAADP	GDDR	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
<i>Siehe 2.2</i>	Finally, with an increased focus on public-private partnerships, Platform members highlighted public-private investment, including institutional innovation, as an area worthy of attention. (HT p.8)	Public-private sector cooperation <b>can be used to create institutional innovations</b> , e.g. for quality enhancement and assurance, financial service provision, insurance, contracting and access to information. (AAA p.6)	/	Given the dominance of public systems for R&D in developing countries, and the global role of the private sector in R&D and in value-chain development, public-private partnerships (PPPs) offer much potential and are profiting. (WEB p.170)	More diverse funding [...] Public-private partnerships for <b>improved commercialization</b> of applied technologies and joint funding of AKST, where market risks are high and where options for widespread utilization of knowledge exist. (ES p.12)	Public-Private Partnerships, developed by development agencies and <b>applied at the microeconomic level</b> , show promise in enabling greater smallholder participation in <b>market-oriented food production</b> . (CFA p.27)
			<b>Mixing public and private</b> . Other new approaches recognize the significant private-good attributes of many extension services, such as technical advice delivered by processors and wholesalers to farmers producing high-value crop and livestock products under contract. Mixed public-private systems involve farmer organizations, NGOs, and public agencies contracting out extension services. (WEB p.174)			

#### 4.5 Civil society and participation

Civil society participation is an issue all documents stress. However it is left open whether or not this participation is "meaningful," has institutional character or, in individual cases, is dependent on the good will of decision makers.

IAASTD is very clear on this issue: More money needs to flow into participatory processes - relevant groups such as farmers' organizations must receive public aid to help make their voice heard on all levels. AAA stresses the central importance of the participation of smallholders in the creation of national agricultural strategies,

as this group has suffered discrimination in the past. CAADP and WDR 08 on the other hand focus on/reduce participation to the economic empowerment of producer organizations. In their opinion, the primary task of farmers' organization is to group produce in order to become more acceptable agribusiness suppliers.

CAADP	GDPRD	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
<p>To the extent that governments decide to adopt the approach pioneered by the SPFS, this also depends on partnerships between governments and civil society, including effective participatory mechanisms</p> <p>(CAADP p.46)</p>	<p>Participation is a broad concept, and different actors or stakeholders may interpret "participation" in different ways at different times depending on their different interests. Donors are often perceived as external stakeholders with certain interests that serve the interests of those back home in their own countries or organisations. To balance out the equation, <b>participation must consider "ownership" as a key element</b> that must be included in the design of effective approaches to rural development delivery.</p> <p>(JDR C p.20)</p> <p><b>Policy development and reform</b>, together with programme design and implementation, require <b>social dialogue</b> – through various outreach and participatory mechanisms.</p> <p>(JRD C p.20)</p> <p>Strengthening <b>community management of resources</b> is another key aspect of efforts to ensure sustainability. Such an aim is also linked to the principles of governance, partnership and equality. Communities must feel ownership over their management processes, and must <b>participate in the decision-making processes at the community level</b> and beyond.</p> <p>(JDR C p.17)</p>	<p>Sector Governance. [...] Key aspects include: reviewing, clarifying and (re-)defining state - private sector – civil society relationships; establishment of <b>consultation</b> and conflict resolution mechanisms; capacity building for stakeholders to engage in policy and strategy development; <b>strengthening of producer organisations</b> in policy, productive and marketing functions;</p> <p>(AAA p.22)</p> <p>The improvement of agricultural sector governance also calls for an agreement on national strategies for agriculture and its sub-sectors by all stakeholders involved. This includes the <b>small scale producers</b> which often have been <b>disadvantaged</b> in policy participation, due to their isolation, dispersion, status and level of education.</p> <p>(AAA p.6f)</p>	/	<p>producer organizations and other civil society organizations and <b>help to overcome market failures</b> in agriculture while avoiding government failures. Collective action through producer organizations can facilitate economies of scale—for example, in input supply, extension, marketing, and managing common property resources, such as watersheds and irrigation systems.</p> <p>(WEB p.247)</p> <p>In line with a growing interest in deliberative democracy, formulation of agricultural development policies increasingly involves stakeholders and the broader public. Participation can create political support in favor of the agriculture-for-development agenda. Such <b>participation incurs transaction costs</b>, of course, but it identifies policies and programs better tailored to country-specific needs.</p> <p>(WEB p.247)</p>	<p><b>ensuring full and meaningful participation</b> of stakeholders across scales in forming and implementing policy regarding agriculture. [...] In these cases policies have focused on the multifunctionality of agriculture and have aimed to meet a broad range of goals, which include crop productivity, sustainable economic development, environmental sustainability, health and social well-being.</p> <p>(SDM p.36)</p> <p>Strengthening public support for empowering the organizations of farmers and other community-based groups can <b>increase poor people's influence</b> in collaborative AKST arrangements and decision making.</p> <p>(SDM p.24)</p> <p><b>Funding is also needed</b> for processes that ensure that resource-poor farmers, natural resource managers and other intended beneficiaries of the research participate in research decision-making.</p> <p>(SDM p.38)</p>	<p>HLTF members will conduct <b>high-level briefings</b> with the General Assembly, ECOSOC, and UN regional groups, governing bodies and management committees of individual UN systems agencies as well as a series of consultations at the regional level that bring together national governments, regional organizations, regional development banks, and, as appropriate, major privately relevant sector actors.</p> <p>(CFA p40)</p>

## 5 Gender and bioenergy

### 5.1 Gender

In general, there are three ways in which the issue of gender is dealt with in the papers. First - and rather shockingly - there is a widespread ig-

norance of gender issues. AAA doesn't even mention gender and CFA's writings on this issue are neither serious nor credible. Second, especially in AGRA, CAADP and WDR 08 (in this case very markedly) gender is seen solely as an economic issue: It is important to promote women's economic activities because women have a better track record of economic "performance," they are

the better entrepreneurs. Third, GDDPRD and in particular IAASTD see gender issues as a fundamental question of justice and non-discrimination. Furthermore, IAASTD makes very concrete recommendations on gender justice (for example "significant investment in staffing and training [...] within science and technology centers").

CAADP	GDDPRD	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
Among frequent criticisms of this first version of the CAADP is the <b>lack of explicit reference to gender</b> . [...] It is clearly essential that gender be a core consideration in operationalising the CAADP; at this stage, the broad pillars are important for both men and women. (CAADP foreword)	Rural development must be guided by the <b>principle of gender equity</b> . (JDRC p.15)	/	Revisiting African agriculture requires a partnership with the continent's farmers and an appreciation of how gender affects everything from the farming tools used to the ability to buy seeds, own land, and access credit. (AGRA at work)	The important role of women in agriculture in many parts of the world calls for urgent attention to gender-specific constraints in <b>production and marketing</b> . (WEB p.79)	Progress toward sustainability and development goals is not achievable without more determined involvement of women's knowledge, skills and experience and a <b>redirection of AKST</b> in order to provide opportunities for women. (SDM p.22)	/ <i>(nur Frauen als Vertreterinnen von Nahrungsmittelhilfe.. da sie wohl gerechter sind...)</i>
Special attention must be given to the vital foodproducing and <b>entrepreneurial roles of women</b> in rural and urban African communities. African women account for substantial amounts of production in both the informal and formal sectors. Research has shown that women entrepreneurs not only reinvest in their businesses but also place high value on social investments in their communities. Historically, African women have engaged in international commerce and trade. (CAADP p.78)	Principles of <b>equity and equal opportunity</b> that guide rural development delivery must recognise the different needs, priorities, and interests of men, women, boys and girls, as well as the different constraints they face. (JDRC p.15)		The agenda must recognize the often-dominant role of women as farmers, agroprocessors, and traders in local markets. (WEB p.20)	Male out-migration can transfer responsibility for farm management to women. And where women have less access to credit, extension, and markets, as is frequently the case, farm productivity might fall as a result. The transfer of responsibility may also be only partial, limiting women's possibilities to take advantage of emerging opportunities to improve <b>competitiveness</b> . (WEB p.74)	a persistent feature is that women have a key role in agricultural activities and yet, especially in developing countries, have limited access to and control over productive resources such as land, labor, technology, credit and capital including gender equitable land reform. Despite advances in gender awareness, <b>access to AKST products and participation in AKST processes</b> remain limited for women and for other marginalized groups. (SDM p.23)	

## 5.2 Bioenergy / agrofuel

All reports see agrofuels as a relatively unimportant element of rural development strategies. A general skepticism prevails due to the multiple impacts of the boom in biofuels. The problems of planting agrofuel crops are usu-

ally - in contrast to other issues - clearly stated and weighed against possible opportunities. Apart from CAADP and AGRA, which do not examine this issue (CAADP is older than the boom), only CFA paints a cautiously positive picture. It is also telling that, apart from IAASTD and GDDPRD, the papers only (implicitly or ex-

PLICITLY) assess the production of agrofuels for non-local use. Agroenergy for people's daily needs is barely mentioned. This is a sign of the direction in which general developments are heading and that improving local energy supply is irrelevant to this debate.

CAADP	GDDPRD	AAA	AGRA	WEB 08	IAASTD	CFA
/	Renewable energy, decentralised rural energy supply, competition between bioenergy crops and food crops, and the impacts of bioenergy use on the environment are all the- matic areas that resonate with Platform members. Underlying many of these areas are the implications that bioenergy has for food security. Finally, as members highlighted the future of smallholder farmers as a priority issue under other topics, it is crucial to <b>identify smallholder options for producing and using bioenergy</b> , as well as energy-use options for them in general. (HT p.11)	The current high prices for energy and the recent mounting worldwide demand for biofuels are likely to also have important effects on African agriculture. This could be through increased national demand for bioenergy, through the higher prices for biofuel feedstock on the world market, with knock-on price effects on various crops (grains, oil containing crops), or through external demand for biomass of various sorts, but also through <b>pressure on land and attention away from the growing of staple food.</b> (AAA p.9)	/	Biofuels offer a potential source of renewable energy and possible large new markets for agricultural producers. But few current biofuels programs are economically viable, and most have <b>social and environmental costs</b> : upward pressure on food prices, intensified competition for land and water, and possibly, deforestation. (WEB p.70)	negative effects on poverty (e.g. rising food prices, marginalization of small-scale farmers) and the environment (e.g. water depletion, deforestation) may outweigh [...] benefits and need to be carefully assessed. (SDM p.35)  The <b>negative social effects</b> risk being exacerbated in cases where small-scale farmers are marginalized or displaced from their land. (ES p.13)  improve traditional bioenergy (ES p.12)  Bioelectricity and bioheat are important forms of renewable energy that are usually <b>more efficient</b> and produce less GHG emissions than liquid biofuels (ES p.13)	The increased demand for biofuels offers an <b>opportunity for farmers</b> , including smallholders, in particular in tropical countries that have a comparative advantage in feedstock production, and biofuel development could inject new investment, technology and knowledge transfer all leading to increased agricultural productivity, which would also benefit food production. However, if not properly managed, it can (through its impact on food prices, land tenure, etc.) <b>harm all poor households who are net food-buyers.</b> (CFA p.32)  <b>Re-assess biofuel targets, subsidies and tariffs to reduce pressures</b> on grain and oilseed demand and food prices and allow the potential benefits of biofuels to be gained without the negative consequences. (CFA p.33)  Facilitate private investments in biofuel production in developing countries (CFA p.33)

# E - Assessment and recommendations

## 1 Commonalities

On some levels there is a general consensus. This consensus exists primarily in four areas:

(1) The **centrality of agriculture and rural development** to an effective fight against hunger and poverty and their importance as the foundation for general economic growth is recognized and emphasized. All papers are therefore also in accord that it is necessary to support the development of rural areas and of agriculture more than has been the case up to now.

(2) **Safety nets** are again accorded an important role in protecting the poorest groups. Many (CAADP, CFA) prefer to embed this in a “twin-track approach,” protection in the form of providing basic services and at the same time supporting agricultural activities.

(3) All papers place much a higher value on **small-scale agriculture** than was the case in the mainstream agenda ten years ago.

(4) **Increasing productivity** is given an exceptional amount of attention. It is seen as key to the development of agriculture and to the fight against hunger.

## 2 Differences

### 2.1 Within the above-mentioned areas

**Centrality of agriculture:** The papers draw very different conclusions from their insights. In particular on the questions (a) which areas should receive particular attention in order to get the development motor going and (b) how this focus should be financed (and channeled), or the role government, donors and the private sectors should play in financing. On these points there are immense differences.

CFA, WDR 08 and CAADP ascribe a central role to the global market (new markets, global value chain, etc.) for agricultural growth and food security. Their overall objective is competitiveness on the global market. IAASTD and AAA on the other hand put traditional methods of cultivation and care at the center of their agricultural program. Diversification, focusing on traditional staple foods, local markets and subsistence farming are seen as important approaches to combating hunger and poverty.

**Safety nets:** It is often difficult to tell whether the proposed safety net support strategies are about real and comprehensive financial transfer (social safety nets) or actually mean

market-based mechanisms (productive safety nets, targeted safety nets, conditional transfers, risk insurance, etc.). Currently, the latter, cur-tailed agenda seems to be enjoying popularity. In particular WDR 08 and CFA look closely at these new safeguards in which the private sector relieves the state of its responsibilities.

**Small-scale agriculture:** Small-scale farmers are again on the international agenda. But the role they are to play is not yet clear. In particular AAA and IAASTD see small-scale agriculture as the foundation of any truly poverty-oriented development: at the center of their programs are the production of basic foods (in CFA as well) and targeted public support (not on the CFA agenda).

In CAADP, AGRA and WDR 08, small-scale agriculture is merely “accepted” and should be commercialized to meet future challenges. This one-dimensional analysis and lack of understanding of the multifunctionality of agriculture is best illustrated in a quote by Adesina (Vice President of AGRA): “There is a need therefore to promote agriculture as a business, not just as a way of life.”

**Increasing productivity:** With the exception of IAASTD, increasing productivity is the main objective of rural development in all the papers. IAASTD on the other hand sees in-

creased productivity as one part of a three pronged strategy including sustainability and development, and not as the means of securing development objectives in and of itself.

## 2.2 Further areas and excluded issues

The relationship between **the public and the private sector** is assessed differently in the texts. IAASTD and AAA believe it is necessary to again strengthen the public sector without repeating the mistakes of the past (excessive regulation). The other papers assign a much smaller role to the public sector. They see government solely as setting political frameworks and providing funds for PPP so that economic activities that are “risky” or “don’t pay off” become interesting for the private sector (for example input markets in marginal areas). The question of the different roles of the public and the private sectors is of particular interest in the area of **research and technology**: Should government create public goods (e.g. freely accessible seed) or only set private commitments in motion by a legal framework that encourages the business sector to invest (e.g. IPR).

All papers with the exception of IAASTD are sadly indifferent to issues important to civil society. NGOs, particular social movements from the rural South, have spoken out in the past few years on many topics central to agriculture and rural development; for example in the Declaration of Nyeleni and the civil society declaration at the EU Rural Forum, both re-

leased in 2007. In spite of this, there are other governmental declarations, such as ICARRD, which focus on those issues close to the heart of NGOs; such as food sovereignty, the human right to food, agricultural reform and free access to public goods (seed and water for instance). In contrast to this definition of public goods, WDR 08 or CFA only discuss public goods in relation to infrastructure, such as roads.

The civil society issues mentioned above are searched for in vain in the documents evaluated here. The neglect of these topics is a good indicator that these documents do not take **participation** or democratization very seriously. Most of the papers seem to believe participation is important solely on the project level. At policy level, setting the course of policy or developing macroeconomic concepts, the participation of civil society is ignored. However this is exactly the level on which decisions have been made in the past that have had particularly negative consequences for precarious target groups such as small-scale farmers or indigenous people. Trade policy is a typical example. The organizations that drafted the documents will therefore have to live with the criticism that their papers were not developed in a credible participatory manner. They were not developed with, but rather for those groups affected most by the rural crisis. These groups are usually not allowed to have a say until the end of the decision making process, when the strategies have already been developed.

### *Driven by whom?*

Mainstream thinking is that development should be demand driven. The market expresses this demand as supply and development co-operation should focus on making markets function. We believe however that it is unlikely that demand regulated in this way can also meet the needs of marginalized groups. Some of the papers are perhaps needs-based and also set their development strategies to meet needs (AAA, GDPRD), but none are based on rights.

The only exception is the newest version of CFA. In it, the human right to food is explicitly mentioned. Otherwise, a human rights approach is largely ignored. It is mentioned in WDR 08, but not applied. It is nevertheless interesting that although IAASTD does not explicitly mention the right to food, looked at from a human rights perspective – in particular the right to food – the results of IAASTD are often in alignment with a rights-based approach. Alongside recognition of the central importance of small-scale agriculture, IAASTD also stresses universal human rights such as participation and non-discrimination, even if it does not see them as obligatory, but merely desirable. This commonality is underscored by the May 19, 2008 declaration of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the current report of Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. Both urge the implementation of IAASTD’s recommendations.

*Access to land*

Justice with regards to access to land is a central question of rural development. Rising food prices and the new agrofuels market have aggravated land speculation, expulsions and displacement processes (of farmers and local food production). For decades, small farmers' organizations, landless movements and many NGOs have demanded that more agricultural reform programs receive a higher political priority. Unfortunately, changing land property structures through agricultural reform is given little room in the current debate on rural development strategies.

*(Agro) Biodiversity*

Biodiversity is not given much attention in the papers. None of them reflect the importance of biodiversity for cushioning the effects of climate change and ensuring stable, sustainable food production. Furthermore, according to WDR 08 (explicitly, other papers such as CAADP or AGRA imply this), agrobiodiversity should not be secured by traditional seed systems, but rather ex-situ in gene banks. This contradicts the results and recommendations of the IAASTD report: The loss of biodiversity due to industrial agriculture is a central cause of current problems. IAASTD sees biodiversity as the foundation for the sustainable use of natural resources. This is also supported by CFA, but not as prominently as by IAASTD. CFA also only refers to small-scale production systems and sees no need to interfere with industrial agriculture.

*Learning from the mistakes of the past?*

Neither CAADP, GDDPRD, WDR 08 nor AGRA make credible mention of the negative consequences of their own former policies. Usually, they do not take a critical look at the past and when mistakes are mentioned, alternatives are not examined. AAA and IAASTD on the other hand openly discuss policy mistakes of the past. The difference is only in their assessment. While IAASTD seriously questions past policy, AAA's criticism is more moderate.

### 3 Recommendations

The general tendency of most of the analyzed documents is clearly "continue as is" or "more of the same medicine." A couple of adjustments should be made, and then everything will fall into place. In light of the unacceptable number of 925 million hungry people on our planet, around ¾ of whom live in rural areas, and the recent hunger revolts, which have clearly illustrated the undesirable development of the global trade system, more of the same can not seriously be presented as a solution. Only IAASTD leaves this path and calls for radical changes in agricultural policy: "Successfully meeting development and sustainability goals and responding to new priorities and changing circumstances would **require a fundamental shift** in AKST, including science, technology, policies, institutions, capacity development and investment" (ES p. 6). IAASTD demands that traditional and local knowledge

take center stage in the fight against hunger and poverty. According to IAASTD the goals of liberalization of world trade, promotion of high technologies (biotechnology for instance), strengthening the private sector at the cost of public responsibilities, or undifferentiated increases in productivity should be geared down. Instead the report advocates that these objectives should be put into proper relation with other objectives, for example, local market development, participation in development programs or social and environmental sustainability. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier de Schutter, names this discrepancy clearly when referring to the issue of increasing productivity: "The question for whose benefit therefore, is at least as important as the question how to produce more? But there is a risk that the latter question will be treated as the more pressing [...] This would be a historical mistake, with far-reaching consequences." Indeed, the one-sided focus on increasing productivity and looking only at numbers on the availability of food per capita have masked the much more decisive question of access to food.

*Some special recommendations:*

- In light of the extraordinary recommendations of the IAASTD report as compared to the other texts we must make determined efforts to see that they can effectively enter current development agendas. At any rate, the IAASTD results must enter the strategies of diverse policy-makers (national ministries, EU, FAO, CFA, etc.).

- IAASTD should continue as a process, and we should support the idea of expanding its role to make it a global assessment and consulting mechanism. IAASTD could for example play this role in the “global partnership on food and agriculture.”
- The different regional IAASTD reports offer civil society and donors a basis for the assessment of current agricultural and development policy. For example the regional reports on sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa/Europe are useful tools for observing and evaluating the EU strategy AAA, which is promising on many points. According to recent statements at UN level (see the UN Committee on Ecosoc rights of May 19 and the Aug. 4 draft of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food) a human rights-based approach must provide the

framework for strategies to combat hunger and poverty. Only such strategies can ensure that those groups most threatened by poverty and hunger are at the center of policy and that participatory/inclusive decision making processes are strengthened. In this sense, a human rights-based approach also makes an important contribution to the much-needed democratization of rural areas.

Roman Herre, Münster, October 22, 2008 (translation: Laura Rodosh)

## Further reading:

- Forum Umwelt & Entwicklung (Hg.)** Schöne neue Landwirtschaft – Der Weltentwicklungsbericht 2008 der Weltbank
- Olivier de Schutter** Building resilience: a human rights framework for world food and nutrition security (Draft)
- New Partnership for Africa’s Development** NEPAD 2003 A Summary of NEPAD Action Plans (<http://www.nepad.org/2005/files/documents/41.pdf>)
- New Partnership for Africa’s Development** NEPAD 2003 Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) (<http://www.nepad.org/2005/files/documents/caadp.pdf>)

- NEPAD Secretariat, African Union Commission** 2008 The AU/NEPAD African Action Plan (Updated Final Draft Version, 28 March 2008) (<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/28/10/41084201.pdf>)
- New Partnership for Africa’s Development,** African Union 2007 Freedom to Innovate. Biotechnology in Africa’s Development. (Report of the High Level African Panel on Modern Biotechnology, April 2007) ([http://www.nepadst.org/doclibrary/pdfs/biotech\\_africa\\_2007.pdf](http://www.nepadst.org/doclibrary/pdfs/biotech_africa_2007.pdf))
- Forum for Agricultural Research in African (FARA)** 2006 Framework for African Agricultural Productivity FAAP ([http://www.fara-afica.org/library/browse/fara\\_publications/FAAP\\_English.pdf](http://www.fara-afica.org/library/browse/fara_publications/FAAP_English.pdf))

- Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD)** 2006 On Common Ground: A Joint Donor Concept on Rural Development ([http://www.donorplatform.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=388](http://www.donorplatform.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=388))
- Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD)** 2006 Hot Topics: Platform consensus on rural development issues of global significance in 2006 ([http://www.donorplatform.org/component/option,com\\_docman/task,doc\\_download/gid,386/](http://www.donorplatform.org/component/option,com_docman/task,doc_download/gid,386/))

- International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)** 2008 Global Summary for Decision Makers ([http://www.iaastd.net/docs/IAASTD\\_GLOBAL\\_SDM\\_JAN\\_2008.pdf](http://www.iaastd.net/docs/IAASTD_GLOBAL_SDM_JAN_2008.pdf))

# Abbreviations

<b>International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) 2008 Executive Summary of the Synthesis Report of the IAASTD</b> ( <a href="http://www.agassessment.org/docs/IAASTD_EXEC_SUMMARY_JAN_2008.pdf">http://www.agassessment.org/docs/IAASTD_EXEC_SUMMARY_JAN_2008.pdf</a> )	
<b>World Bank 2007 World Development Report 2008. Agriculture for Development</b> ( <a href="http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2008/Resources/WDR_00_book.pdf">http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDR2008/Resources/WDR_00_book.pdf</a> )	
<b>United Nations High Level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis 2008 Comprehensive Framework for Action</b> ( <a href="http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/retrieveattachments?openagent&amp;shorid=EGUA-7GSPD6&amp;file=Full_Report.pdf">http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/retrieveattachments?openagent&amp;shorid=EGUA-7GSPD6&amp;file=Full_Report.pdf</a> )	
<b>European Commission 2007 Advancing African Agriculture. Discussion Paper from the Commission.</b> ( <a href="http://www.wougnet.org/Links/docs/ECDiscussionPaper_AfricanAgriculture.pdf">http://www.wougnet.org/Links/docs/ECDiscussionPaper_AfricanAgriculture.pdf</a> )	
<b>Dr. Akinwumi Adesina 2008</b> Achieving Africa's Green Revolution: Lessons for Transforming Nigeria's Agriculture (Speech at the Conference 'Global Food Crisis', 23-24 July 2008, Abuja, Nigeria) ( <a href="http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/822">http://www.agra-alliance.org/content/news/detail/822</a> )	
<b>AAA</b>	Advancing African Agriculture, EU Development Strategy
<b>AGRA</b>	Alliance for the Green Revolution in Africa
<b>AKST</b>	Agricultural Knowledge and Science for Technology
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>CAADP</b>	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program
<b>CFA</b>	Comprehensive Framework of Action of the UN (to deal with the Food Crisis)
<b>COMESA</b>	Common market for Eastern and Southern Africa
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DG DEV</b>	General Directorate for Development (of the EU Commission)
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EU-DG DEV</b>	Directorate General on Development in the EU
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization (of the UN)
<b>FARA</b>	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
<b>GDPRD</b>	Global Donor Platform for Rural Development
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environmental Fund (of the World Bank)
<b>GMO</b>	Genetically Modified Organism
<b>HLTF</b>	High Level Task Force (of the UN)
<b>IAASTD</b>	International Agricultural Assessment of Science and Technology for Development
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development, Rome based Organisation
<b>IPR</b>	Intellectual Property Rights
<b>JDRC</b>	Joint Donor Rural Concept, basic conceptual framework of the Global Donor Platform on Rural Development
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>NEPAD</b>	New Economic Partnership for African Development, Initiative of various African Governments
<b>NGO</b>	Non Governmental Organization
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>PPP</b>	Public Privat Partnership
<b>ProGRA</b>	Administration of AGRA
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environmental Program
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture
<b>WDR 08</b>	World Development Report 2008 (of the World Bank)
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



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