

AGRICULTURAL INPUT QUALITY IN UGANDA
– NEW RESEARCH, PRIVATE SECTOR SOLUTIONS & POLICY DIRECTIONS
Protea Hotel, 16 September 2015

Today's Event

Anyone interested in Ugandan agriculture knows that inputs sold across the country are often substandard. But conventional wisdom is intangible; policy needs a more concrete basis. New research presented today goes beyond the anecdotes. It provides concrete evidence of the nature, scale and implications of the quality problem in agricultural inputs. The first objective of this event is to disseminate the findings of completed studies, and also emerging results from on-going work. For the IGC, the key study – and also the event's headline presentation – is the paper *Low Quality, Low Returns, Low Adoption* by Jakob Svensson, Tessa Bold *et al*, which was funded under the IGC project "Why is the Agricultural Revolution So Slow in Africa?"

From a policy perspective, research is only as useful as the action it can inform. Evidence-based policy making requires clear insights, but there still is much we don't know. The second objective of today's event is to discuss what we can learn from the studies, and to identify areas in which more evidence is needed. The forum should thus chart a way forward for both researchers and policymakers.

Discussions of business issues are incomplete without private sector representation. In the absence of an effective regulatory framework and lacking an effective market mechanism, agricultural firms have had to find their own solutions. The third objective of this event is to learn from the way businesses get by in this challenging environment. Finally, we will explore innovative models that have the potential to change the Ugandan agricultural input markets' dysfunctional dynamics.

The Organisers

The International Growth Centre (IGC) is a DfID-funded research organisation with offices in 14 South Asian and Sub-Saharan African countries. It supports evidence-based policy-making by providing a bridge between academia, policymakers and the private sectors. Since 2012, the IGC Uganda office has been hosted by Bank of Uganda. Apart from agriculture, this research project spans a range of growth-relevant issues such as trade, education, urbanisation, monetary and fiscal policy. Please pick up a copy of our latest work in agriculture and approach one of our staff or visit www.theigc.org for more information.

The Feed the Future Uganda Environment for Agriculture Activity (EEA) is part of U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which seeks to combat poverty, reduce hunger and food insecurity, improve nutrition, and contribute to economic growth through increased agricultural production and improved links between agriculture and nutrition. EEA contributes to these objectives by working with the Government of Uganda and private sector actors to remove policy and regulatory constraints to agricultural development and trade focused on three priority commodities or value chains: coffee, maize, and beans. EEA also focuses on improving the legal, regulatory, and institutional environment surrounding agricultural inputs in Uganda, with an emphasis on seed and agricultural chemicals reforms.



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Event Programme

8.30 – 9.00 Registration

9.00 – 9.15 **Opening**

Morning Presentations: Research

9.15 – 9.45 Low Quality, Low Returns, Low Adoption

Prof. Jakob Svensson, Stockholm University

9.45 – 10.15 Evaluation of the impact of e-verification on counterfeit agricultural inputs and technology adoption

Lucy Billings, IFPRI

10.15 – 10.45 Revisiting Uganda's inorganic fertiliser supply chain

Dr. Swaibu Mbowe, EPRC

10.45 – 11.00 *Coffee break*

Morning Discussion: What can we learn from the research?

11.00 – 11.30 Discussant

Hon. Victoria Sekitoleko, Chairperson Uganda Agribusiness Alliance

11.30 – 12.30 Panel discussion with the presenters & discussant

Moderator: Francisco Toro, Journalist

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch

Afternoon Presentations: Private Sector Solutions

13.30 – 14.00 Input quality in the maize value chain

Joseph Initiative, Benjamin / Philipp Prinz

14.00 – 14.30 Counterfeiting of agricultural inputs – an industry perspective

Agnes Mbabazi, Commercial Manager Agriculture, Balton Uganda

14.30 – 15.00 E-verification

Bright Simons, President, M-Pedigree

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee break

Afternoon Discussion: Supporting the Private Sector

15.15 – 15.45 Discussant

Okasai Opolot, Director Crop Resources, MAAIF

15.45 – 16.45 Panel discussion with the presenters & discussant

Moderator: Milton Ogeda, FTF Uganda EEAA

16.45 – 17.00 **Closing**

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Gloria Asimwe is Commercial Manager Agriculture at Balton Uganda. She holds a Bachelor of Management from Kyambogo University.

Lucy Billings is a research analyst with the International Food Policy Research Institute in the Poverty Health and Nutrition Division providing research support to IFPRI impact evaluation studies in East Africa. She holds an M.S. in food and agriculture policy and an M.P.H from Tufts University and was a 2011 Mickey Leland Hunger Fellow.

Samuel Bua is Agronomist at Balton Uganda. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Land Use and Management from Makerere University.

Swaibu Mbowe is the head of the Sectoral Department at EPRC Swaibu's experience of over fourteen years ranges from undertaking research and consultancies work to inform government in agricultural sector development policy processes. He has been the focal point in a key partnership with the Alliance of a Green Revolution in Africa and the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries in designing fertilizer policy, regulations and strategy for Uganda. Swaibu has led research in two major projects in collaborations with the Africa Growth Initiative at Brookings. He coordinated a project that researched pathways to foster youth employment in agricultural value chains under the IDRC partnership. He is a member of the Uganda Economics Association, and his areas of research and scholarly interests include agricultural policy analysis, socio-economic and agribusiness development studies.

Milton Ogeda holds a Master's of Science degree in Agricultural Economics from, Wye College, University of London. He worked as a Senior Economist in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries from 1983 – 1993. From 2013 – 1998, he was the Head of Monitoring and Evaluation unit Under the Northern Uganda reconstruction Program in the Office of the Prime Minister. Between 1999 – 2013 he was a freelance development consultant in policy formulation, strategic planning, program/project planning, monitoring and evaluation and capacity building in the sectors on agriculture, natural resources, water and sanitation and education. Since 2013, he has been working with Feed the Future Uganda Enabling Environment for Agricultural Activity (Implemented by Chemonics Inc.) as the Senior Agricultural Specialist with responsibility for agricultural inputs issues and coffee.

Benjamin Prinz is a co-founder and managing partner of Agilis Partners Ltd, an integrated agricultural development company operating in Uganda. Agilis's holdings include the Joseph Initiative, a grain management and agricultural services company, a Asili Farms, a commercial farming business. Benjamin leads strategic corporate development, investor relations, and partnerships at Agilis and its portfolio companies. From the founding of the company, Benjamin has originated and led the development of critical fundraising and operational relationships. Benjamin graduated from the University of Chicago with a A.B. in Economics.

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Philipp Prinz is a co-founder of Agilis Partners Ltd, an integrated agricultural development company operating in Uganda. Agilis's holdings include the Joseph Initiative, a grain management and agricultural services company, a Asili Farms, a commercial farming business. Philipp leads operations at Agilis and its portfolio companies; he is the Managing Director of the Joseph Initiative. Philipp founded Agilis Partners from Accenture, a global consulting, technology services and outsourcing company. As a management consultant, Philipp worked with global companies to achieve high performance in Supply Chain and Operations in the United States and Europe. Philipp graduated from Wheaton College (Illinois) with a BS in Chemistry and Economics.

Bright Simons is president of the mPedigree Network, where he pioneered a system that allows consumers to instantly check whether products they buy, especially health-related products, are counterfeits or not by sending a free text message. He is honorary director of development research at IMANI; a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Councils, Young Global Leaders, and Technology Pioneers Communities; a TED and Ashoka fellow; and a Brain Trust member of the Evian Group at IMD. He is a recipient of numerous awards, ranging from an Archbishop Desmond Tutu Award, Marie Curie and Commonwealth Vision Grants to a PPARC Scholarship in Gamma Ray Astronomy. Bright is consulted on innovation strategy by international organizations such as the World Bank, UNECA, USAID, and the Commonwealth; and is a member of the United Nations taskforce on innovative models in healthcare and the Lancet Commission on Sub-Saharan Africa. Bright is furthermore a member of the Advisory Board of IC Publications, one of the world's leading publishers focused on Africa and the African diaspora; of the Microsoft for Africa Advisory Council; and of the Sanofi Digital and Africa 2.0 Advisory Boards.

Jakob Svensson is a professor of economics and director at the Institute for International Economic Studies (IIES) Stockholm University. He received his PhD in economics from IIES in 1996 and before rejoining IIES he spent five years at the research department of the World Bank. Jakob has been the principal researcher for a number of larger scale randomized trials in Africa covering various issues of accountability (broadly defined) in both the health and the education sector. His more recent work evolves around technology adoption, with a special focus on agriculture and health. He is research fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), European Development Research Network (EUDN), Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), and a research affiliate of J-PAL. He is also a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and since 2014 a member of the prize committee for the Economic Prize in Memory of Alfred Nobel ("Nobel prize in economics"). Jakob is the recipient of the 2009 Assar Lindbeck Medal, awarded bi-annually to an economist in Sweden under the age of 45 whose work have gained the most international recognition.

Francisco Toro is a freelance journalist specializing in food security and agriculture issues. His work has appeared in The New York Times, The Guardian, The New Republic, Foreign Policy and many others. His current research on Counterfeit Seed in Uganda is made possible by a grant from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

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