

***Place of Agronomic Research in the  
Process of Innovation in Africa:  
Looking through the lenses of the CAADP***

***Session 4 of the ESA  
International science Week on Agronomy***

Innovation and Decision Support in Agriculture:  
Which Roles and Partnership for Research?

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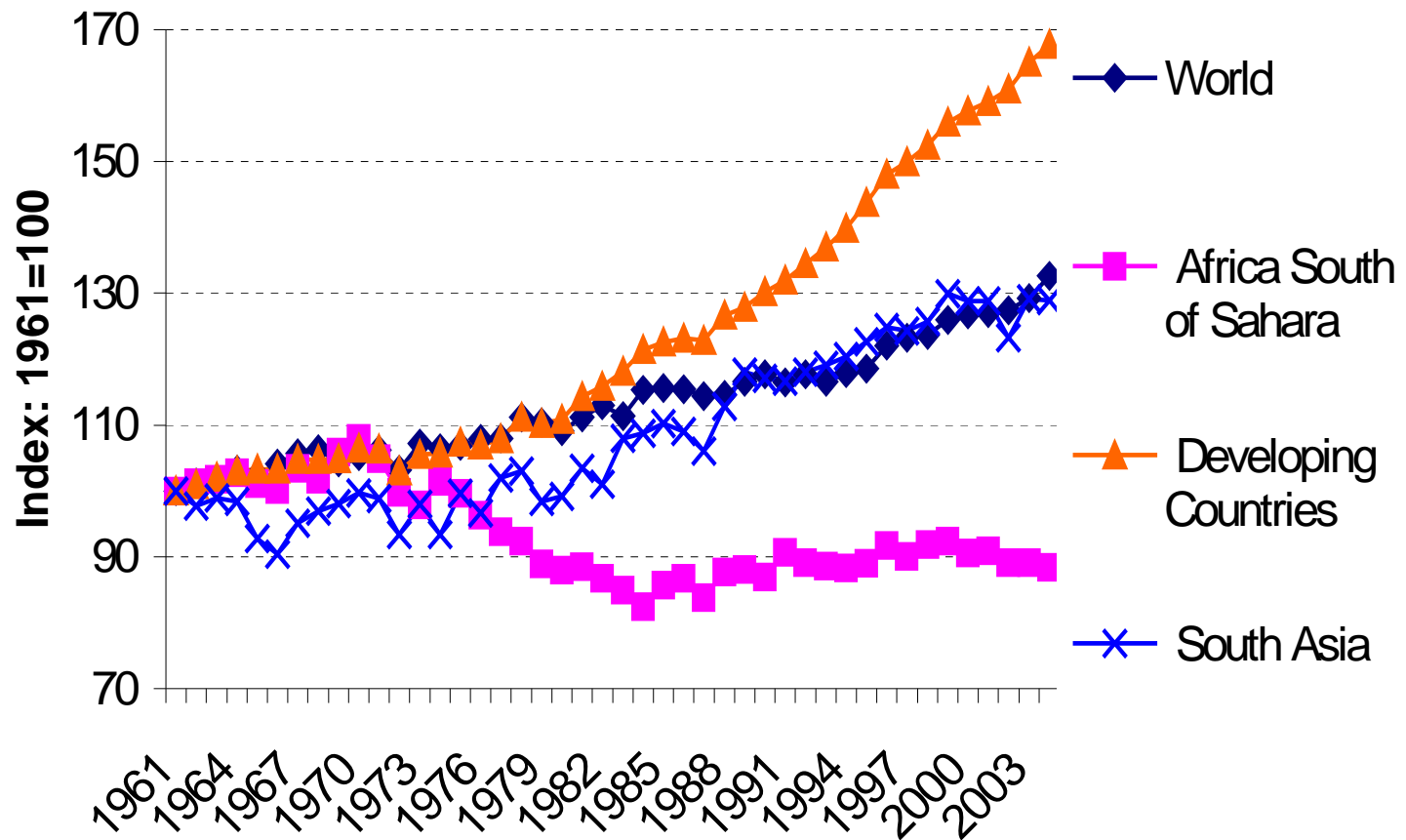
# Outline of Presentation

- Importance of agronomic research in Africa
- CAADP and innovation for efficient agronomic research in Africa
- Making agronomic research more responsive to CAADP targets
- Conclusion

# Importance of agronomic research<sup>1</sup>

- Main challenges in Africa: reduction of poverty and food insecurity
- Poor performance of agricultural sector explains slow progress towards overcoming these challenges
- Agricultural growth has hardly kept up with population growth rate

# Importance of agronomic research<sub>2</sub>



Source: FAOSTAT, 2006

**Figure 1 Growth trends in per capita value added output of agriculture**

# Importance of agronomic research<sub>3</sub>

- Agricultural resources are main contributors to overcoming these challenges
- Agronomic research produces technologies potentially important for agricultural growth
- Effectiveness of agronomic research depends on relevance and response to farmers' needs
- Adoption rate of products of agronomic research is relatively low
- Link agronomic research and its products with dynamic innovation processes to increase adoption rate and achieve impact

# Importance of agronomic research<sup>4</sup>

**Table 1: Agricultural technology and productivity by developing region**

	Share of area planted to modern varieties (a) (%)				Contribution of genetic improvement to yield growth (b)
	1970	1980	1990	1998	
Asia	13	43	63	82	0.88
Latin America	8	23	39	52	0.66
Middle East & North Africa	4	13	29	58	0.69
SSA	1	4	13	27	0.28

(a) From Evenson & Gollin, 2003; (b) Measured as a share of increase in productivity

# **CAADP and innovation for efficient agronomic research<sup>1</sup>**

- African governments are committed to raising agricultural productivity by at least 6% through CAADP
- CAADP Pillar IV addresses:
  - improving agricultural research and systems to disseminate new technologies
  - increasing support to help small-scale farmers adopt them
- CAADP Pillar IV, - a legitimate African framework for linking agronomic research to innovation processes

# CAADP and innovation for efficient agronomic research<sub>2</sub>

- Innovation requires coordinated efforts of many actors
- Linkage and coordination is addressed **using innovation narratives** which translate:
  - ideas so that they are comprehensible and legitimate
  - **emerging solutions that promote real time problem solving**
- Identification of clear innovation narratives around which agronomic research can be

# **Agronomic research more responsive to CAADP target<sub>1</sub>**

- Consultation with African stakeholders and partners revealed 10 principles for implementing CAADP Pillar IV referred to as FAAP
- The first nine (9) of them are linked to :
  - institutional arrangements
  - capacity strengthening
  - end-users empowerment
  - strengthening farmers support services
- The tenth is linked to:
  - increasing investments and promoting

# **Agronomic research more responsive to CAADP targets<sub>2</sub>**

- Ten principles proposed as innovation narratives:
  - End-user participation
  - Application of principle of subsidiarity
  - Evidence-based intervention
  - Integrated approach to agricultural research for development
  - Sustainable innovation
  - Improved management of information and communication systems
  - Cost sharing amongst all stakeholders
  - Integrated gender approach
  - Coordinated and aligned financial investment

# **Agronomic research more responsive to CAADP targets<sub>3</sub>**

- Diverse and overlapping
- Each has implicit hypothesis and specific questions
- Different institutional arrangement required to achieve the CAADP target
- As innovation trajectory unfolds research needs to be embedded in the innovation process in different ways
- This is to reflect roles played by different elements and stakeholders

# Conclusion

- The proposed 10 innovation narratives will strengthen role of agronomic research
- They will help stakeholders address problems and strengthen Africa's capacity for innovation
- They will enable agriculture to be an engine for development in Africa
- Understanding when and under what circumstances narratives are relevant will make a major contribution to agricultural development

# THANK YOU



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