

Think Tank Discussion

Group 1

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Topics

- Group 1 - What are the big challenges for Agriculture in African context?
- Group 2 - What tools are used for agri using satellite / remote data collection (known and wish list)?
- Group 3 - Which are the Data sets that we would like to use (existing or not)?
- Group 4 - What are the practical , technical, policy, implementation obstacles to Location aspects/Geotechnologies for Agriculture?

Participants

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CHALLENGES IN PREPRODUCTION

- Climate Change-changing rainfall patterns
-Desertification.
- Land degradation
- Agricultural Inputs(Unavailability)
- Land reformation-Land fragmentation
- Lack of Awareness/Information
- Clearcut Policy
- Soil Mapping(unclear)

CHALLENGES IN PRODUCTION

- Lack of Extension Services
- Lack of Facilitation
- Capacity of Extension Workers
- Too much inconsistency information provided
- Lack of organizational framework
- Lack of Standards
- Lack of Mechanization

CHALLENGES IN MARKET

- Poor Infrastructure
- Lack of an organized market framework
- Lack of nutritional awareness
- Postharvest losses(storage)
- Branding and Marketing African food
- Lack of Human resource(Proper value Chain)

Key Opportunities

- Climate Smart Agriculture
- New farming techniques to mitigate effects of climate Change
- Conservation-e.g Water Harvesting
- Early Warning System
- Training and Organized Financial support to Extension SMEs
- Unified Approach to Policy formulation
- Drone and Satellite Technology
- Implementation of standards
- Mechanization
- Investment in Storage and Value Addition
- Organizing farmers to formalized Commercial entities

Mid term (3-5 year) challenges

- Lack of Extension Services
- Capacity of Extension Workers
- Too much inconsistent information provided
- Lack of organizational framework
- Lack of Standards
- Lack of Mechanization
- Poor Infrastructure
- Lack of an organized market framework
- Lack of nutritional awareness

Possible solutions to midterm challenges

- Create youth led agricultural extension service which addresses capacity of extension workers
- Develop platforms to infuse consistency information running on unified farmer owned organizational framework that addresses most of the other challenges seen in the medium term
- Create a nutritional knowledge initiatives through farmer owned eateries

Long term (10 year) research challenges

- Climate Smart Agriculture and farming techniques to mitigate effects of climate Change
- Agricultural resource management and conservation
- Training and Organized Financial support to Extension SMEs
- Unified Approach to Policy Formulation
- Mechanization and Drone and Satellite Technology
- Implementation of standards
- Investment in Storage and Value Addition
- Organizing farmers to formalized Commercial entities

Possible solutions to long term challenges

- Create sector-wide climate smart agriculture and farming techniques research and training programmes
- Create sector-wide organizational frameworks to address agricultural resource management and conservation
- Formulate Sector Finance Programmes that target the sector constraints
- Create a continental policy institution to address the challenges faced in technologies and standards

Identify at least three key research questions for discussion

1. What knowledge driven sustainable agricultural organizational framework is necessary to address the continental value chain constraints?
2. What knowledge solutions are necessary to address sectoral capacity constraints in African agriculture?
3. What policy changes are necessary to support evidence based decision making in agriculture using open data on agriculture and nutrition?