About IAPRI

Research: 6 Thematic Areas
- Market development and trade
- Public policy and spending
- Smallholder Productivity and Poverty reduction
- Climate change and natural resources
- Food and Nutrition
- Emerging issues

Centre of Excellence for Agricultural Policy Research and Outreach in Zambia

Outreach
- High Level Policy meetings
- Ordinary level meeting/indabas
- TV documentaries
- Newspaper Infographics
- Newsletters
- Website

Collaborations
- Local institutions
- Unis in ESA (ReNAPRI)
- MSU
- Uni Hohenheim

Capacity Building
- Survey design and data analysis
Presentation Flow

1. What policy research is
2. Why Agricultural Policy Research?
3. The problem
4. How agricultural research can drive national development?
5. What we want to achieve as researchers
1. What is Policy Research?

“Policy research is a special type of research that provides communities and decision-makers with useful, pragmatic, action-oriented recommendations and possible actions for resolving fundamental problems.” (Majchrzak, 1984)

“Linked to the public policy agenda and results are useful to the development of public policies.” (Majchrzak, 1984)

Combines policy analysis and program evaluation
2. Why Agricultural Policy Research?

- Structural Change in GDP contribution
- Yet, 70% of the population engaged in the Agricultural Sector

Source: CSO, Standard Bank, 2015 Research
## Ranking of Returns of Investment in Poverty Reduction: Evidence from Asia and Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment Category</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>India</th>
<th>Thailand</th>
<th>Vietnam</th>
<th>Uganda</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural R&amp;D</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (Agricultural Extension Services)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agricultural Sector Challenges

- Low agricultural productivity (Around 2 mt/ha)
- Poor agricultural markets
- Low private sector participation
- Consistently high rural poverty levels (nearly 80%)
- High malnutrition rates (40% Stunting rates of under 5 children)
3. The problem ..... 

Is research informing policy?

Are the policies evidence-based?

Who is informing policy?

Are the policies addressing the intended goals and objectives?

- High agricultural productivity
- Poverty reduction
- Food and nutrition security
- National revenue from Agricultural
The problem...

Government policy makers or Technical staff

Researchers
Agricultural policies and programs are often inadequately informed by research-based evidence due to:

- Information gaps
- Slow responses
- Political interference/interests
- Lack of transparency
- The fact that policy makers are rarely scientists
- Rent seeking behaviour by a privileged few.
4. How can agricultural policy research drive National development?
Development Cycle

National Development

Agricultural Policy Research

Policy design and Implementation

Agricultural Development (Poverty reduction, food and nutrition security ..)

Agricultural Growth

Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute
Policy making is complex

- Policy processes are complex (not linear)
  - Simply presenting information to policymakers and expecting them to act upon it is very unlikely to work.
  - Policy processes have various stages and each may take time to complete.
  - So our strategies must be fluid.
How can we change the status quo?

- Include senior decision-makers from policy making institutions in the early stages of research designs to ensure early buy-ins.
- Communicate research results effectively to policy makers and technical staff.
- Speedy and timely generation of evidence.
- Capacity training of key policy makers and their support staff.
10 building blocks to bringing research to policy making

- Get to know each other
- Be patient
- Be Respectful
- Embrace diversity
- Scientific knowledge is nothing without practical knowledge – and vice-versa
- Foster a clear, mutual frame of reference – A strong common goal and similar objectives
- Build the partnership incrementally
- Ensure broad institutional buy-in
- Allow for Mistakes
- Equal commitment to the partnership

Source: Ferguson, 2005
Evidence-Based Policy in Zambia
Some Positive Examples

- Reducing the size of the FISP package from 8*50Kg bags of fertilizer to 4*50Kg bags (2009/2010).
- The E-voucher Pilot: 13 districts (2015/16 Ag. Season).
- Scaling up of the social cash transfer (2015).
5. Our Goals as Agricultural Researchers

- Increased agricultural productivity
- Private sector-led agricultural sector
- Diversified agriculture
- Enhanced household and national food and nutrition security
- Agricultural GDP growth
- Export diversification
- Reduced poverty
Thank you

www.iapri.org.zm
## Ranking of Agricultural research with respect to poverty reduction: Evidence from Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The Economist</th>
<th>IFPRI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policies</td>
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<td>Road investment</td>
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<td>Agricultural extension services</td>
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<td>Credit subsidies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irrigation</td>
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<td>5</td>
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Source: IFPRI