

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FSN FORUM DISCUSSION No. 52  
**TAKING STOCK OF EXISTING WORK ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES IN  
AFRICA**  
FROM 15 FEBRUARY TO 15 MARCH 2010

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## **I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

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Duration: from 15.02.2010 to 15.03.2010

Number of participants: 19

Number of Contributions: 18

## II. INTRODUCTION OF THE TOPIC

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Dear Forum colleagues,

My name is Jean Balié, I am an Economist with the Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA) in FAO and at present, I'm working on a new project, called **Monitoring African Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP)** jointly implemented by FAO and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The aim of the project is to facilitate policy dialogue based on a sound and analytical monitoring system to promote more informed decision-making at the national, regional and international levels.

During the first phase of the project, we are carrying out a broad review of food and agricultural policies in Africa. One of the project outputs is a synthesis of currently existing work on food and agricultural policies in Africa.

Considering the broad diversity of stakeholders undertaking policy analysis work in Africa and of information sources, it would be extremely helpful if you could point out **existing policy monitoring and policy analysis activities in Africa (who has done what, where) or any similar attempt at taking stock of policy analysis/policy monitoring activities in Africa.**

The 10 MAFAP countries where the project will be implemented are: **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda.**

In these countries, the following topics are of particular interest to us:

- Analysis and measurement of incentives and disincentives to food and agricultural value chains
- Value chain analysis
- Analysis of public expenditures and aid flows (with focus on Africa)
- Design and measurement of development and sector performance indicators in order to take into consideration the broad development objectives such as food security, poverty eradication, sustainable management of natural resources, etc.
- Analysis of the present institutional capacities concerning policy analysis and data systems in the 10 MAFAP countries.

The synthesis of existing work will be made available to FSN Forum members by the end of April.

In parallel we are also developing a **methodology for policy monitoring**, which involves adapting existing forms of measurement and analysis (such as the PSE of the OECD, the indicators developed in the context of the World Bank project on distortion to Agricultural Incentives, the indicators generated out of the Policy Analysis Matrix, etc.) to the African context. I would appreciate any suggestion or reference that would help us with the development of this methodology.

Many thanks in advance,

Jean Balié  
Economist  
Agricultural Development Economics Division of FAO  
[www.fao.org/es/esa](http://www.fao.org/es/esa) [www.fao.org/tc/tca/negotiation](http://www.fao.org/tc/tca/negotiation)

For further information please see  
[http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/fsn/docs/MAFAP\\_EN.pdf](http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fsn/docs/MAFAP_EN.pdf)

### **III. LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

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#### **Contribution by Thomas Mokake from Cameroon**

Dear Jean

This is a very important topic for serious consideration. In some of our SSA countries there is the Agricultural Policy document developed by the Ministry of Agriculture. However, how the Policy is translated into appropriate Strategies and Action Plan with Objectively Verifiable Performance Indicators/Targets needs to be improved.

In some countries, the Parliament passes/approves the budget presented by the Minister of Agriculture without a thorough appraisal and scrutiny of performance targets achieved within the framework of the Policy. It is sometimes true that, implementation of policy could be divergent from realities on the ground due to certain constraints. However, quite a lot can be implemented where such policies are realistically developed.

Best regards,

Thomas Mokake  
Buea, Cameroon

#### **Contribution by Kevin Gallagher from FAO, Sierra Leone**

From Sierra Leone, please see also [CAADP/National Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan \(NSADP\)](#) and a concept note on a [Food Security Unit by the Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security](#). The NSADP outlines the Small-holder Commercialization Scheme which is the productive food security action with some social safety net actions incorporated. The Concept Note outlines new ideas for moving further with strategic grain reserves and early-warning systems.

With best regards,  
Kevin Gallagher  
FAO Sierra Leone

#### **Contribution by Agnes Yawe from Pelum Regional Desk, Zambia**

Hi Jean,

In our CSO initiative, agriculture policies in relation to food sovereignty is the key area of our focus. We have a partnership initiative with CSOs from East, central, southern and western Africa. We are planning a meeting in March to bring together diverse players (CSOs, AU, Regional economic communities, Pan African Farmer Networks, Pan African CSOs etc) from all over Africa and most of the countries indicated will be represented or at least the partners have interventions in those countries. We have asked partners to share any of their policy analysis works on agriculture policies and hopefully I could share experiences there after. We have also developed a draft framework as CSO that we want to use for analyzing agriculture policies to inform our engagements and this is the reason I felt your program was attractive to me.

As a CSO lobby platform in Africa I felt we could greatly benefit from Jean's project and generally FAOs rich information but at the same time the work we are planning could also be useful to FAO.

Jean is this something that is ok with you. We shall have our meeting in Arusha, therefore am wondering whether your Tanzanian link would have some time for this.

I am also interested in future collaboration with your programme.

Agnes Yawe  
CAL Officer  
PELUM Regional Desk  
Lusaka, Zambia

**Contribution by George Kent from the University of Hawaii, USA**

FSN friends

With full respect for Jean Balié, I think there are some points in this initiative that merit further discussion.

In this project on Monitoring African Food and Agricultural Policies, we are talking about monitoring by whom and for what purpose?

Monitoring is usually intended to help in making difficult decisions. What decisions? By which decision makers?

Jean says, "The aim of the project is to facilitate policy dialogue based on a sound and analytical monitoring system to promote more informed decision-making at the national, regional and international levels." That sounds good, but it appears there may already be some asymmetry in the relationships here. Who decided which countries would be included, on what basis? When we are told, "the following topics are of particular interest to us" who is "us" and why were those particular topics listed? The topics listed do not sound like the sort of agenda that would come up to the FAO from the local level

My concern is that it is not clear how developing "a methodology for policy monitoring" would be a matter of high priority to local decision-makers.

Aloha, George

Professor George Kent  
Department of Political Science  
University of Hawai'i  
USA

**Contribution by Joseph Opio-Odongo from Sustainable Development Services, Uganda**

Dear Jean

My only small concern is that in Africa we need to pay more attention on the policy formulation process, especially in terms of stakeholder engagement and the interface between science and politics in policy-making. Once the formulation process is flawed, serious implementation problems can ensue. It would therefore be nice to see how the selected countries are performing on the policy formulation process, which also embraces policy analysis.

Given the growing emphasis on evidence-based policy-making, it would be useful to gauge the extent to which ongoing policy-making, policy analysis, policy monitoring and policy evaluation take sufficient account of the evidence availed by scientists, researchers and farmers. Regarding farmer engagement, the Indian experience with citizen jury is instructive.

You can access the document here: ["Prajateerpu: a citizens jury / Scenario workshop on food and farming futures for Andhra Pradesh"](#).

Best regards  
Joseph Opio-Odongo  
Director, Sustainable Development Services (SDS)  
Kampala, Uganda

### **Contribution by Hezekiah G. Muriuki from Kenya**

I agree with Joseph Opio-Odongo (previous contributor to this discussion Ed) that in Africa we need to pay more attention on the policy formulation process, especially in terms of stakeholder engagement and the interface between science and politics in policy-making but want to add here that a major disconnect comes at the implementation stage.

We need find a way of commitment of all involved throughout the policy process – awareness/identification of the need for policy, the formulation and the implementation. In most cases, the financing part for the implementation is solely left to the Government which on its part is faced with many policies to implement, meager resource and competition between the good of the policy and what makes better political sense. Most of African government spends most of the time in office dealing with political and personal issues which they have self created or imposed on them by the opposition. Accountability to the citizens/stakeholders, from both sides of the political divide, is almost non-existent and therefore no obligation to implement the agreed policy. The political class gets away with impunity because of the ignorance of the majority of stakeholders and the complacency of the knowledgeable elite/middle class who like to play it safe and not be caught antagonizing the political masters. While the interface between science and politics is necessary, empowering (educating) the stakeholders to provide effective oversight throughout the policy process is of great importance as well. Can the science contribute to this?

Hezekiah G. Muriuki,  
Nairobi,  
Kenya

### **Contribution by Joseph Opio-Odongo from Sustainable Development Services, Uganda**

Hezekiah (*Hezekiah G. Muriuki, previous contributor to this discussion Ed*),

You raise very pertinent points. Let me begin by attempting to answer the question of how science could contribute to empowering non-science stakeholders. A main challenge that we scientists face is the communication of our findings to those outside our fraternity. It approximates what C.P Snow referred to as the two cultures.

Unless we do the translation of our findings in simple languages that clearly communicate the main messages of our scientific findings, we will continue to talk past not only other categories of scientists but more importantly the decision-makers and the general public. That communication should also pay particular attention to the main interests and concerns of the particular audience that we intend to reach.

I agree with you on the need to worry about the hitches during implementation. In my opinion the following are some of the factors that account for the implementation difficulties:

Faulty policy design, whereby little attention is given to issues of generating and sustaining stakeholder commitment and lack of rigor in determining whether or not the proposed policy is implementable in light of the country situation

The timing of the policy, such that if its implementation is deemed by the political class to hurt the interests of the voters during upcoming elections, such a policy would risk being ignored or sabotaged

Policy capture by vested interest groups who would work tirelessly to ensure that the policy never gets implemented as designed

Lack of attention to the issues of complementarity or convergence of the policy with other related policies (e.g. water, land, forests, energy) thereby raising the probability of the new policy operating at cross purposes with those already in force.

Regards.  
Joseph Opio-Odongo

### **Contribution by Jean Gault from FAO, Italy**

Dear Members

Please have a look to the work of SARD-M (Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) and Mountain issues) regarding policies for sustainable mountain regions development, and adequate institutions and work processes: this is easily transferable to Africa.

English [http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/fsn/docs/SARDMinterregionalanalysisE.pdf](http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fsn/docs/SARDMinterregionalanalysisE.pdf)

French [http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/fsn/docs/SARDMinterregionalanalysisFR.pdf](http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fsn/docs/SARDMinterregionalanalysisFR.pdf)

See also our assessment on sub regional Ethiopian policies:

[http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/fsn/docs/SARD-M\\_Ethiopian\\_PIP\\_final\\_Report-FINAL\\_3\\_01\\_10.pdf](http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fsn/docs/SARD-M_Ethiopian_PIP_final_Report-FINAL_3_01_10.pdf) .

Jean Gault

[www.fao.org/sard/sard-m](http://www.fao.org/sard/sard-m)

SARD-M Project Coordinator

FAO

### **Contribution by Abdou Fall from West Africa Rural Foundation (WARF) and IFADAFRICA, Senegal**

Hello everybody,

My name is Abdou Fall, I am a nutritionist and Agro-food engineer. I am the Responsible for the Program at the West Africa Rural Foundation (WARF) and coordinator for FIDAFRIQUE/ IFADAFRICA.

FIDAFRIQUE is an initiative financed by IFAD to promote the sharing of knowledge and innovations to reduce rural poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa.

This program has 3 technical components:

- strengthening of capacities on capitalisation methods and techniques;
- supporting the collection, sharing and diffusion of knowledge;
- supporting dialogue on rural development policies.

In this 3rd component that is strictly linked to the forum discussion on MAFAP / SPAAP, we planned the following activities.

A study (March – April 2010) on dialogue initiatives regarding the development policies and programs of cereal supply chains (in Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria) and on roots and tubers supply chains (Congo Brazzaville and Cameroon). Results of this study will be presented during a three-day workshop with the participation of leaders of producer's organisations, representatives from the Ministries and coordinators of project financed by FIDA. This workshop will allow building thematic working groups on agricultural policies.

The two other activities are training workshops on i) policy analysis and follow up and ii) on the redaction of documents (policy briefs) aimed at informing decision makers.

We are very interested on this forum discussion and are ready to contribute to it but also to build partnership relations and exchange with the reference Project (MAFAP / SPAAP). We have already circulated the information on the FSN Forum to all members of our network so they can follow the discussion and contribute to it.

I wish you a great success.

Abdou Fall

Responsible for the program, FRAO/Program Officer, WARF

Ifadafrika Coordinator AOC/ WCA

Senegal

## **French Original**

Bonjour tous,

Je m'appelle Abdou Fall, Nutritionniste et Ingénieur Agro-alimentaire. Je suis Responsable de Programme à la Fondation Rurale de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (FRAO) et je suis le Coordonnateur de FIDAFRIQUE/IFADAFRICA. FIDAFRIQUE est une initiative financée par le FIDA pour promouvoir le partage des savoir et des innovations pour la réduction de la pauvreté rurale en Afrique subsaharienne. Ce programme a 3 composantes technique: le renforcement des capacités sur les méthodes et techniques de capitalisation; l'appui à la collecte, le partage et la diffusion des savoir et l'appui au dialogue sur les politiques de développement rural.

Dans cette 3ème composante qui est en étroite articulation avec le thème du forum, le SPAAP / MAFAP, nous avons prévu les activités suivantes.

Une étude (mars - avril 10) sur les initiatives de concertation sur les politiques et programmes de développement des filières céréales (au Mali, Burkina Faso et Nigeria) et les filières racines et tubercules (Congo Brazzaville et Cameroun). Les résultats de cette étude seront restitués lors d'un atelier de 3 jours avec la participation des leaders d'organisations de Producteurs, les représentants des ministères et les Coordonateurs de projets financés par le FIDA. Cet atelier permettra de constituer des groupes de travail thématiques sur les politiques agricoles.

Les 2 autres activités sont des ateliers de formation sur i) l'analyse et le suivi évaluation des politiques et ii) sur la rédaction de notes (policy briefs) destinées à informer les décideurs politiques.

Nous sommes très intéressés par ce forum et sommes prêts à y contribuer mais aussi à bâtir des relations de partenariat et d'échanges avec les programmes qui le sous tendent (SPAAP / MAFAP). Nous avons déjà diffusé l'information sur FSN à tous les membres de notre réseau afin qu'ils puissent suivre et contribuer aux discussions.

Plein succès

Abdou Fall

Responsable de programme, FRAO/Program Officer, WARF  
Coordonnateur Fidafric AOC/ Fidafric Coordonator WCA  
Senegal

## **Contribution by Jean Balié from FAO, topic raiser**

Dear forum members,

I would like to thank all the contributors to the discussion on the MAFAP project. I am grateful to those who proposed material for the stock taking exercise on policy analysis / policy monitoring in Africa. I also appreciate the input of those who have drawn my attention to specific issues.

The main point raised by Joseph Opio-Odongo and by Hezekiah G. Muriuki regarding stakeholders' involvement in the policy formulation process is actually critical and it is true that attention needs to be paid to policy processes in order to capture the "how" dimension. How was a policy designed? Who were the main contributors to its formulation? In this respect, the MAFAP project can contribute to the promotion of a more inclusive, more informed and more transparent policy making process. The project aims, for example, to strengthen the policy dialogue at national and regional level by stimulating greater involvement of all key stakeholders including of course civil society representatives. It is expected that countries will ultimately integrate the monitoring functions in their usual policy practices.

I appreciate the concerns raised by George Kent and his assistance in making sure that the project is not only owned by participating countries but also that what will be produced is actually fully relevant to the country needs. This project is the result of a long interactive process during



the scoping phase between FAO/OECD and potential participating countries. At this stage, all participating countries have ascertained their interest and agreed to both the purpose and the approach of the project, indicating its relevance with existing policy processes at national and regional levels. With a view to ensure ownership and sustainability, countries have agreed to participate in the development of the project methodology that will be designed and adopted in May 2010 and then used to analyze and monitor food and agricultural policies in place. Participating countries have also agreed to identify and mobilize national resources and capacities to perform the required analysis at country level in order to ultimately take the responsibility of the policy monitoring function. Moreover, the regional economic communities such as UEMOA, ECA, or CILSS have proposed to play a major role in facilitating a more effective policy dialogue on food and agricultural policies. Obviously, the AU/NEPAD is a member of the project steering committee and contributes to the project implementation. Regarding the country selection, the ultimate objective of the project is to cover all African countries. It is unfortunate that the resources mobilized so far do not allow for a continent wide coverage. Efforts are being made to mobilize additional resources. Regarding the criteria used for selecting the initial group of participating countries the list include considerations for geography, language, expression of interest, regional economic integration, data availability, overlap with the review being done on public expenditures, etc... I would be happy to share the details with Kent directly if required.

I am particularly thankful to Agnes Yawe and Abdou Fall who proposed to share their experiences on policy analysis performed by the platform of CSO in Eastern and Western Africa. I also thank Jean Gault for sharing the documents on policies for sustainable mountain regions development, Thomas Mokake for emphasizing the importance of monitoring performance targets and Kevin Gallagher for his examples from Sierra Leone.

Please do not hesitate to share additional information, data and documents with us. Thank you very much once more for your interest in the topic and your assistance.

Best regards

Jean

#### **Contribution by Gbolagade Ayoola from Farm and Infrastructure Foundation, Nigeria**

Dear Members,

You will kindly permit me to make my modest contribution to this interesting topic at the outset of the discussion.

The intellectual stocktaking of food and agricultural policies in Africa is long overdue; and, given the indeterminate policy response of the continent to the recent economic meltdown and the FAO's Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP), the need for policy stock-taking is probably more urgent now than ever before.

The goal of constant inventory-taking of agricultural policies formed part of the motive behind the International Workshop on: Agricultural Policy Networking - The Way Forward; which was organized by CTA in 2000 or so at Entebbe, Uganda, and which I had the privilege to serve as the International Rapporteur and to produce the report in two volumes, both published (vol 1 - Workshop Proceedings; vol 2 - Summary Report.)

The workshop represents an appropriate take-off point for the proposed policy stock taking exercise, wherein a number of issues arise to consider, which include the suggestion of process approach as a suitable framework of policy stock-taking. In this regard the agreed definition is perfectly general, starting from Problem recognition to Policy formulation, to Policy appraisal, then to Policy Implementation, and Policy evaluation/Impact assessment. At each stage it is possible to conduct an inventory of actions of policy authorities that form part of the stock.

Another issue pertains to dimensions and characterization of policies for the purpose of stock-taking. That is whether we are interested in implicit or explicit policies; or in the hierarchy of policies at macro (federal), meso (state) level or micro (local) level or a combination of these. Further characterization entails the focus on functional categories in terms of Farm input policies; Commodity policies; Market intervention policies; Infrastructure policies, etc.

My aim in this contribution is to prime the topic raiser on the great diversity of the task of policy stock-taking, as a multi-disciplinary, multi-location and multi-faceted exercise. My organization is concerned with promoting policy best practices, so intellectual stock-taking of this nature is a very familiar terrain and can work in collaboration with FAO in any part of Africa to conduct policy appraisal studies.

But such inventories are of no use other than what they really are: a means to an end rather than ends in themselves. Several end questions will include: what are the stakes in each policy or policy category and who the stakeholders are? What priority does each policy enjoy on the scale of preference of policy authorities to gauge their level of commitment - anticipatory or revealed or both? What is the rate of turnover of policies dealing with the same issues - high, moderate or low or nil? What degree of institutional or organizational instability prevails to govern particular policies and what degree of consistency prevail vertically and horizontally in the policy space for agricultural development; etc.

To proffer answers to these questions, the overriding issue is the absence of professional organizations for the promotion of policy best practices in agriculture and rural development, through policy advocacy and brokerage; which gap my organization was established to fill.

Suffice it to say that the inventory of policies to be undertaken may not be worth the effort unless properly dimensioned, characterised and functionalized with plausible answers to the questions raised, in close partnership with country actors.

Gbolagade Ayoola  
Professor of Agricultural Economics and Policy,  
Founder/President of Farm and Infrastructure Foundation (FIF),  
Abuja, Nigeria  
[www.fifng.org](http://www.fifng.org)

### **Contribution by Carole Lambert from Service DEFIS, France**

Hello,

Allow me, in case you have'nt seen it, to point out that the theme of the last *bulletin de veille* is about agricultural policies. <http://www.inter-reseaux.org/bulletin-de-veille/article/bulletin-de-veille-no155-special>

Conversely, the current discussions underway on the FSN Forum FAO and the project (Monitoring African Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP)) mentioned by the person who started the discussions may provide inputs for the Inter Networks magazine?

Best regards,

Carole Lambert

### **French Original**

Bonjour,

Je me permets, au cas où vous n'en ayez pas déjà connaissance, de vous signaler que le thème du dernier bulletin de veille concerne justement les politiques agricoles. <http://www.inter-reseaux.org/bulletin-de-veille/article/bulletin-de-veille-no155-special>

Inversement, les discussions actuelles en cours sur le forum FSN de la FAO et le projet (Monitoring African Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP)) mentionné par la personne ayant lancé les discussions peuvent alimenter la revue d'Inter Réseaux?

Cordialement,

Carole Lambert

### **Contribution by Joël Teyssier from Inter-réseaux Développement rural, France**

Hello,

Inter-network has actually begun to gather documents and information on agricultural policies, particularly in West Africa: <http://www.inter-reseaux.org/ressources-thematiques/politiques-agricoles/>

These web pages will interest the MAFAP.

I am interested to join the discussion forum FSN.

Inter-networks can effectively relay a number of reports of this forum and project on our website in the newsletter and in our magazine.

I am available for more information.

Sincerely,

Joel Teyssier

### **French Original**

Bonjour,

Inter-réseaux a effectivement commencé à regrouper des documents et informations sur les politiques agricoles, en particulier en Afrique de l'Ouest: <http://www.inter-reseaux.org/ressources-thematiques/politiques-agricoles/>

Ces pages web pourront intéresser le MAFAP.

Je serais intéressé de rejoindre le forum de discussion FSN.

Inter-réseaux pourra effectivement relayer un certain nombre d'informations de ce forum et projet, sur notre site web, dans le bulletin de veille et dans notre revue.

Je suis à votre disposition pour plus d'informations.

Bien à vous,

Joël Teyssier

### **Contribution by Sheryl Hendriks from University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

Sheryl kindly contributed the website of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP): <http://www.nepad-caadp.net/about-caadp.php>

### **Contribution by Rosemary Atieno from University of Nairobi, Kenya**

The paper: "Agricultural Policy in Kenya: Issues and Processes" by Patrick O. Alila and Rosemary Atieno from the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, can be included in the resources of this discussion.

[http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/fsn/docs/Ag\\_policy\\_Kenya.pdf](http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/fsn/docs/Ag_policy_Kenya.pdf)

### **Contribution by Calvin Miller, Stepanka Gallatova, Pilar Santacoloma and Nomathemba Mhlanga from the Rural Infrastructure and agro-industries division (AGS) of FAO**

The AGS Division in FAO is doing work on agriculture and agribusiness value chain analysis, post-harvest assessments that can be analysed under a policy perspective

The following publications that are available online can feed the information gathering for the MAFAP Project:

Enabling Environments for Agribusiness and Agro-Industries Development in Africa:

[http://www.fao.org/ag/ags/publications/docs/misc/eea\\_light.pdf](http://www.fao.org/ag/ags/publications/docs/misc/eea_light.pdf)

Private sector agribusiness investment in sub-Saharan Africa (AGSF WD # 27):

[http://www.fao.org/AG/Ags/publications/docs/AGSF\\_WorkingDocuments/K7443e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/AG/Ags/publications/docs/AGSF_WorkingDocuments/K7443e.pdf)

Strengthening farm-agribusiness linkages in Africa. Proceedings of Expert Consultation:

[http://www.fao.org/ag/ags/subjects/en/agribusiness/wp05\\_rottger.pdf](http://www.fao.org/ag/ags/subjects/en/agribusiness/wp05_rottger.pdf)

Strengthening farm-agribusiness linkages in Africa - Summary results of five country studies in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/y5785e/y5785e00.HTM>

### **Contribution by K V Peter from India**

I have only book and documentary knowledge on African Agriculture. The picture in my mind is not rosey. Africa is riddled with illiteracy, internal and external conflicts, frequent drought and above all absence of democracy. Women and children are illtreated. Incidence of HIV/AIDS is high. Corruption is rampant.

The positive aspects are rich natural resources including oil and metals, very rich culture, more land/man for cultivation and good aspects of tribal culture. Donor countries are also responsible for the present plight of Africa. A discussion on Africa is wellcome.

K V Peter

### **Concluding remarks by Jean Balié, topic raiser**

Dear Members,

I wish to thank all of you who followed and contributed to this discussion. The points raised and the documents and references provided are being analysed and taken into account in the development of the synthesis of existing material and the design of the project methodology.

The FSN Forum discussion also provided a further opportunity for the MAFAP team to network with organisations working on African policies and related issues, proving the richness and vitality of this online community.

This discussion is now closed but please feel free to contact us again either to ask for additional information or to share material that you may find relevant.

Thanking you all once again,

Jean Balié