

Overview: Food Security Group

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Food Security Group
Dept. of Agricultural, Food, and
Resource Economics
Michigan State University

Food Security Definitions

- “Access by all people at all times to enough nutritious food for an active, healthy life” (USDA, 2009)
- “Food security means having a *reliable* source of food and *sufficient* resources to purchase it” (GHFSI Consultation Doc.)

Overview of Food Security III

- Food security projects at MSU/AFRE
- Cooperative agreement/LWA mechanism
- Associate awards
- FS III team
- FS III approach & partnership philosophy
- Objectives and research themes
- Related projects

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Food security projects at MSU

- USAID-funded cooperative agreements housed in Dept. of Ag. (Food and Resource) Econ.
 - Food Security in Africa (1983-1992)
 - Food Security II (1993-2002)
 - Food Security III (2003-2012)
- “Food Security Group (FSG)” refers to:
 - Food Security III Leader + associate awards (2/3 \$)
 - [Related projects](#) involving same faculty team (1/3 \$)

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Coop. Agreement Mechanism

- Leader with Associate (LWA) Award
- Leader award funded by AID/Washington (currently EGAT; AFR/SD prior to FY08)
- Associate awards from USAID missions (flexible collaborative design; non-competitive)
- Leader (core) award supports:
 - Management of overall CA by campus-based team
 - Development of associate awards
 - Cross-cutting research, outreach, and capacity building, drawing on country/regional projects

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FS III Associate Awards

- AFR/SD (support to COMESA)
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Zambia
- Others: Mali, West Africa, Malawi
- FSA and FS II country projects: Ethiopia, Rwanda, Senegal, Zimbabwe

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Importance of Core Funding

- Partial funding for the core team and bridging funds in case of variability in other funding
- Core \$ leverage AA \$ and outside funding
- Cross-country synthesis of findings
- Outreach to AID/W and other dev. partners
- Rapid response to AID/W requests
- Preparation of training and analysis materials
- Human capacity building through training of African and non-African graduate students

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FS III (FSG) Team

- 2 Co-Directors
- 9 other faculty based in the U.S.
- 6 faculty based overseas
- 7 administrative and tech support staff
- Graduate research assistants
- Numerous analysts/support staff hired by country offices (Mali, Moz., Zambia)

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FS III Approach

- Demand-driven, collaborative design and implementation (host country, USAID, MSU)
- Policy orientation supported by empirically based research and analysis
- Integration of research, outreach, and capacity building (human, institutional)
- Team approach, including African researchers and analysts (boosts quality and credibility)
- Sustained focus on selected themes and countries/regions

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Goal and Conceptual Framework

- Goal: to integrate applied research findings into policy dialogue and program design to promote agricultural growth as a means to cut hunger and poverty
- Strategies identified within a structural transformation framework
- Single-factor solutions not adequate: need improved technology, institutions, and policies to address growth and food security challenges

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FS III Research Themes

- (1) Improving food systems performance:
 - (a) Farm productivity and technology use
 - (b) Staple food and input markets, market information, market reform, “food sheds” and regional trade
- (2) Improving the food security of vulnerable groups: understanding household income and livelihood dynamics
- (3) Food security interactions with the environment and natural resource management

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Research themes (1a), cont.

- Determinants of farm productivity
- Economic returns to agricultural research
- Strategies for soil fertility improvement
- Economic and policy dimensions of increasing fertilizer & improved seed use
- Cash crop/food crop synergies
- Cotton sector development and reform

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Research themes (1b), cont.

- Organization & performance of markets for staple foods and horticultural crops
- Design & impacts of market info. systems
- Extent & impacts of market reforms
- Determinants of farmer participation in staple food and cash crop markets
- “Food sheds” and regional trade flows

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Research themes (2), cont.

- Distribution of household income & assets
- Income and poverty dynamics
- Difficulties of targeting poorest households
- Impacts of growth on nutritional status
- Emergency responses to food insecurity
- Pro-development design of food aid
- Incidence & impacts of HIV/AIDS on ag.

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Research themes (3), cont.

- Economics of conservation farming (Zambia, Mozambique)
- Impact of game reserves on rural incomes (Zambia)
- Charcoal subsector study (Zambia)
- Impacts of natural resource management interventions (West Africa)
- Potential for linking to climate change work

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Agenda for Future Research

- Overall: successful development transitions and drivers of change:
 - Sustainable increases in productivity
 - Marketing and supply chain efficiency
 - Land policy and access
 - Poverty alleviation and safety nets
 - Managing food price and supply instability
 - Building ag. sector information capacity

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Related Projects

- Kenya (Egerton/Tegemeo, USAID funding)
- Zambia (DAI, SIDA; linked to Zambia FSRP)
- Gates Foundation (staple food markets)
- COMESA/AAMP (ag. markets; World Bank \$)
- Cotton (World Bank, USAID/WACIP)
- Malawi (SOAS-DfID)—input subsidy impacts
- Syngenta Foundation (econs. of rice & maize)
- Hewlett Foundation (market info., reg'l trade)
- Mozambique (MCC: land, coconut rehab.) [Back](#)

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Publications

- [In-country](#) publication series
- [Policy Synthesis](#) briefs
- [International Development Papers](#) and [Working Papers](#)
- [Journal articles](#), books, etc.
- [FSG Web site](#)

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Online FSG Resources

- [Agricultural Market Information](#) Virtual Library
- Survey research [training materials](#)
- [Learning resources](#) for applied food security policy analysis
- [Food Security Information Portal](#) (demo site; includes links to many Web-based research and learning resources)

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FSG Faculty Based in U.S.

Duncan
Boughton



Eric
Crawford



Steve
Haggblade



Thom
Jayne



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FSG Faculty Based in U.S.

Valerie
Kelly



Mywish
Maredia



David Mather;
Abdoul Murekezi

John
Staatz



Dave
Tschirley



Mike
Weber



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FSG Faculty Overseas

- Mali: Nango Dembélé, Boubacar Diallo
- Mozambique: Cynthia Donovan, Gilead Mlay
- Zambia: Antony Chapoto, Chance Kabaghe

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FSG Campus Support Staff

- Steve Longabaugh, Cathy Snider: Mapping, research assistance, Web development, training, project admin.
- Margaret Beaver, Ellen Payongayong (Mozambique): Survey research support, SPSS/Stata training
- Kay Barber, Lori Garza, Xiao Zhen Li: Business office management

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