

Regional Trade, Growth and Emergency Response: Strategic Options for Dealing with Recurrent Food Crises in Southern Africa

**Round Table Discussion facilitated by
Michigan State University Food Security III Cooperative Agreement**

Date: Thursday, November 17

Time: 2.00 – 4:30 pm

Venue: RR Building Mezzanine Conference Room (This room is "public access" meaning that all one needs is a picture id. Enter the RR building from 14th Street <http://www.itcdc.com/about.php?p=2> and the Mezzanine Conference Room is directly behind the "biggest neon sculpture in the world".)

Southern Africa is in the grips of another food crisis. Poor weather has ignited this crisis but structural causes underlie it. Researchers from MSU's Food Security III Cooperative Agreement have been working with national and regional partners to identify how regional trade, government policies, and food assistance can be structured to protect vulnerable groups' access to food during transitory crises while promoting long-term income and productivity growth. Drawing also from recent experience in West Africa, MSU's analysis provides guidance on how regional trade, food assistance and long-term investments and policies can be more successful and less costly in meeting short-term crises -- like the one emerging in Southern Africa -- while also strengthening the region's ability to withstand recurrent droughts in the future.

AFR/SD and EGAT/AG are sponsoring a roundtable discussion to highlight lessons learned on how markets can be used and further developed to meet the needs of the poor in the face of persistent food shortages. We will also explore strategic options for moving forward including the potential and limitations of trade, local food procurement, alternative safety net programs, market information systems, and government marketing policy, with implications for on-going policy processes in the Southern Africa region.

The round table discussion will involve David Tschirley, John Staatz, Michael Weber, Duncan Boughton, and Thom Jayne from Michigan State University. Arrangements are also being made to involve experts on the food situation in Southern Africa from other organizations, including FEWS, the World Bank, IFPRI, and various units within USAID.

The program follows, and for background papers see the last page for downloadable materials.

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Mezzanine Conference Room, Ronald Reagan Building- Washington, D.C. November 17, 2005

OBJECTIVE

To draw on recent experience and emerging research to better understand how regional trade, food- and non-food assistance, and long-term investments and policies can be more successful and less costly in meeting short-term crises -- like the one currently brewing in Southern Africa -- while strengthening the region's ability to withstand future crises

PROGRAM

2:00 – 2:05 Introduction and Roadmap George Gardner, USAID & Duncan Boughton, MSU

2:05 – 3:00 The Current Crisis: What can be Done to Enhance the Contribution of Markets to Effective and Efficient Emergency Response?

Moderator: Duncan Boughton, MSU

- The Challenge of the Current and Future Crises as Seen by USAID (10 min) **Jeff Hill**, USAID/AFR
- USAID/FFP Representative (Tentative)
- FEWSNET's Assessment of The Current Situation in Southern Africa, Responses Being Put in Place, and Priority Areas for Improvement (10 min) **Chuck Chopak**, FEWSNET
- Key Characteristics of Food Marketing Systems in the Region Relevant to Emergency Response (10 min) **T.S. Jayne**, MSU
- Discussion (25 min)

3:00 – 4:00 Towards Improved Emergency Response: Learning from Experience and New Approaches

Moderator: Will Whelan, USAID/FFP (Tentative)

- Towards a Conceptual Approach to Integrating Markets, Livelihoods, and Entitlement Needs in the Identification of Appropriate Emergency Response Options (10 min) **John Hoddinott**, IFPRI
- Learning From the Recent Past and Emerging Research (10 min) **David Tschirley**, MSU
- Using Risk Management Tools for National Level Food Security Insurance (10 min) **Julie Dana**, World Bank
- Discussion (30 min)

4:00 – 4:30 Wrap-Up

- Brief Comments from **John Staatz** (MSU) and **Tom Marchione** (USAID/DCHA) (10 min total)
- Discussion
- Closing comments by **Jeff Hill**

Downloadable Background Documents

FEWS Net :

[11/7/05 Southern Africa Crisis Report](#)
[11/9/05 RATIN Food Trade Bulletin, November 2005](#)
Mozambique Brief [11/8/2005](#);
Malawi Brief [11/4/2005](#);
Zambia Brief [10/19/2005](#);
Zimbabwe Brief [10/12/2005](#) :

MSU/FANRPAN and Other Partners

[Toward a Regional Framework for Effective Policy Responses to the Emerging Food Crisis in Southern Africa](#), Policy Brief by FANRPAN/MSU,

[Improving Maize Marketing and Trade Policies To Promote Household Food Security in Central and Southern Mozambique](#) By Danilo Abdula, David Tschirley, and Michael Weber.)

[Learning from the 2002/03 Food Crisis in Southern Africa: Lessons for the Current Year](#) by Pedro Arlindo, David Tschirley, Jan Nijhoff, Billy Mwiinga, Michael T. Weber, and T.S. Jayne.

[A Report on a Joint Rapid Assessment of Informal Cross Border Trade on the Mozambique-Malawi Border Regions Conducted Between 27 June–1 July 2005](#). Maria Olanda Bata, Simon Dradri, Evance Chapasuka, Cosme Luis Rodrigues, Anabela Mabota and Duncan Samikwa.

[Building Long-Term Food Security while Managing Food Crises: Insights from Mali](#). John Staatz. Michigan State University. Presentation to USAID/AFR. July 28, 2005

[Linking Emergency and Development: FS III Cross Cutting Topic Web Site](#)

Market Information and Analysis News Stories from MSU and Partner Work:

- [President Amadou Toumani Toure Launches Food Security Website](#)
- [SIMA's 500 Bulletin Celebration](#)
- [Lifting the Burden of Excessive Grain Levies on Farmers, Traders and Millers in Zambia](#)
- [Fundamental Restructuring of Mali's Approach to Food Security](#)

World Bank

[Presentation to ARD Management Meeting Nov 8 2005 internal.ppt](#) by Julie Dana

[Managing Food Price Risks and Instability in the Context of Market Liberalization, Executive Summary](#) of forthcoming report by Agriculture and Rural Development Dept, World Bank

[Price Risk Management Workshop: Invitees report\(s\) commissioned through PASS](#)

IFPRI

[Briefs On food aid and food policy produced by WFP & IFPRI](#)

USAID

[The governance dimensions of food security in Malawi](#)

Caroline Sahley, Bob Groelsema, Tom Marchione and David Nelson, USAID, 20 Sep 2005