

CONFERENCE ON FUTURE OF FARMING AND FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

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How to provide a career for young men and women in agro- food security?

South Sudan been in long civil war with a North Sudan over decades, referendum was the only solution to provide the rights of South Sudanese, unfortunately the people didn't meet their expectation, the war erupted again causes to loss of thousands lives including women and children and millions people displaced internally and out of countries.

South Sudanese appreciate the effort undertaken by the IGAD and the warring parties to resolve the conflict. However, the war continue and peace talks consider the positions of the warring parties as the priority, while failing to address the root causes of the conflict.

The current conflict affected the country extremely negatively, South Sudan has a huge agriculture potential remains untapped, if women and youths work on agriculture, South Sudan could produce more than enough to feed its people and export food, which would contribute to food security in the world.

Women and youths are the significant potential for agriculture, as the population of South Sudan is 12 million, 60% are women 28% are youth, women being a core of rural economics in developing countries, in South Sudan and whole Africa, women play a great role in farming to insure wellbeing of families, it's important to insure they are involved effectively in agroforestry, which is a means of sustainable land use system. It involves an integrated land use for agriculture and forestry, benefiting from the positive interactions for enhanced food production and household incomes. Agroforestry provides better career for young men and women in food production and incomes through productive activities of wealth creation and prosperity to strengthening the farming groups through

- Crop productions and sells.
- Livestock productions and sells.

- Vegetable productions and sells.

- Poultry productions and sells.

- Fruit productions and sells.

- Tree productions and sells.

- Entrepreneurship.

- Cooperatives.

- Engagement of CSOs in food security program effectively

- Introduction of Disaster Risk Reduction Approach to create resilient farmers

Challenges face women in agro-food:

- Insecurity and instability
- Competition from well-established male dominated enterprises.
- Lack of accurate information, support, finance/capital for expansion, and domestic commitment
- Culture and traditional norms and patriarchy system
- No effective communication
- Lack of proper records system due to high rate of illiteracy
- Lack of risk management system
- Lack of support to women in microfinance
- Some food production areas are inaccessible due to Bad road

Make Africa small holder more efficient in farming, food and finance?

Efficiency is the extent to which limited resources (money, labor, time, inputs, land and others) are utilized to enhance farm production, food security and financial worthiness without diminishing the values of the resources.

Africa is and has been a food basket for the entire world because of favorable ecological conditions fostering farming and food production as well as income generation for financial capital. However, this mentioned potential has been limitedly utilized because of the following;

- Poor technologies, practices and systems employed.
- Poor financial institutions development for agricultural lending.
- Recurrent political crisis including civil wars and other conflict.
- Poor household economics that is, planning income.
- Poor inputs access and use.
- Limited developments of manpower skills and knowledge.
- Subsistence orientation of the community livelihood.
- Relief dependence syndrome developed due to aids.

To make smallholders more efficient in farming, food and finance the following mitigation measures could be suggested:

- Improved and appropriate application of agronomic practices and system by farmers.
- Building resilient farmers for risk reduction
- Limitation of relief aid to vulnerability and enhancement of resilience.
- Improved food production and income planning by households.

- Development of strong agricultural extension and banking services institutions.
- Conservation of ecological values, through conservation and organic farming, water harvesting and agroforestry.
- Maintenance of political peace and prosperity for all.
- Wealth creation and poverty eradication through sustainable natural resources use.
- Household including women Household need planning, prioritization and budgeting using incomes, as well as development of business skills in farmers.
- Incomes planning for assets acquisition, development, ownership and disposal, for example, land resources.
- Deployment and use of improved technologies, tools and equipment's.
- Capitalistic livelihood, for example, commercial farming and savings.

Logistic capacity to stimulate local agricultural production and marketing development to maximize the benefit to small holder farmers

How to invest in food security in post-conflict and fragile states?

Conflicts disrupt society setups and involvements in productive activities, especially of food production. These conflicts includes domestic, economic, social, technological and political, which calls for heavy investments to recover and settle from the conflict disruptions in terms dialogue, peace building, food production activities, health, education, family reunion and others. The epidemic impact of conflict is hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, which calls for immediate investment to avoid loss of lives of the population, which should could take the following strategies;

- Production of quick foods, such as, vegetables and perennials.
- Deployment of energy conservation technologies for food utilization and environmental resilience, such as cook stoves.
- Improved agronomic practices and use of improved inputs in farming.
- Kitchen gardening, conservation and organic farming on limited accessible or safe land.
- Improved access to quality planting materials, such as, seeds, stalks through multiplications.
- Establishment of agricultural loans to finance farming and food production.
- Financing private individuals and companies in extensive food production to increase production.
- Diversification of alternative food sources by short circle poultry, livestock and fish productions.

- Improved post-harvest handling and storage.
- Improved extension services to the community.
- Maintaining peaceful state, through good governance, access to justice, equal distribution of resources.
- Food security budgeting by governments.