

Opportunities and Challenges for Agriculture Development

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The creation of a Sustainable Agriculture Development pass can help to stimulate inclusive global economic growth and can also support many developing countries to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

We need to design and implement integrated development agendas for agriculture that can make a difference in the lives of hundreds of millions of rural poor and small farmers. We know that three out of every four poor people, especially in developing countries live in rural areas, and most of them depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods.

There are three major challenges: (1) Development of Desert Regions (Saharan Africa) - (2) Increase of income and job opportunities in rural villages (Asia) - (3) The negative impacts of Climate Change (Global). The connection between agriculture development and Rural and Desert Communities Development is very clear. Any improvement is dependent on the access to and the quality of Education, Training, Financing and Governance Systems.

Agriculture development processes and policies should be working for and aiming to use the technical opportunities developed recently like solar energy for irrigation, Recycling of Agriculture Residues, Producing Biogas, Mobile Communication, Organic Fertilizers... etc. in ways responding to farmer's needs.

We need to provide farmers with local access to education and health care and continuous know how to face the increasing social, economic and environmental shocks and stresses. We also need to train them, using Community-Based Education and Training techniques, on how to efficiently use the available resources and how to cooperatively provide services for better production and better opportunities for marketing their products.

In future issues we will try to shed light and give some details on the ongoing research and the recent achievements for the future development in agriculture and to understand more about the Water-Food-Energy Nexus and the Agriculture-Environment-Technology Nexus.

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