

**WOMEN IN HORTICULTURE VALUE CHAINS,  
SOCIAL PROTECTION AND KNOWLEDGE  
MANAGEMENT : PERSPECTIVE FROM  
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

By Basil Jones

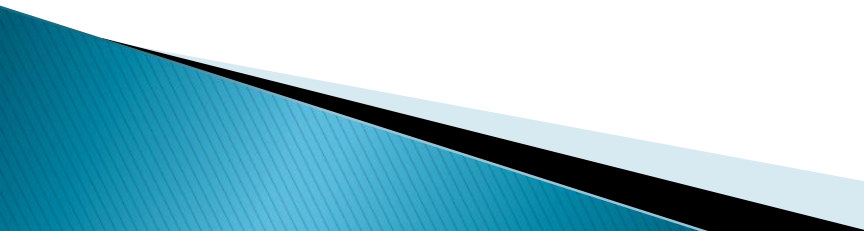
Some Comments by Njuguna Ndung'u

May 11, 2015, Nairobi

# Africa is Rising – Some Facts

- ▶ For the last decade and a half Africa has shown stronger growth driven by
  - Institutional capacity
  - An environment of policy clarity
  - Strong move into political accountability
  - Long term growth strategy/vision across countries; Kenya Vision 2030, Rwanda Vision 2020, etc
- ▶ There is a large middle class population developing over 350 million
  - This is a huge market to tilt and shape demands in the market
  - This is a class of innovators and investors
  - This is a class of policy drivers
  - This is a class conscious of peace, they have everything to loose with civil wars – so they will drive peace in African economies
- ▶ But agriculture remains the backbone of the economies in Africa even with those awash with mineral resources
  - We should emphasize agribusiness and lay out strategies
  - We should provide demonstrative effects of value chain
  - We should fight for policy follow through to the end given the political accountability
  - We should ask why African countries have no succeeded and fix the problem.

# Some Very Useful Policy and Action Points

- ▶ Focus on women in agriculture
  - ▶ A focus on high value chains system
  - ▶ A focus on social protection
  - ▶ All these are very important for social development in Africa, but more importantly for social wealth creation and inclusive growth.
  - ▶ So the promise for action in 2015 – a crossroad for many declarations and strategies offers hope – but is enough being done?
  - ▶ **Do we have “A Policy follow through” problem?**
- 

# Where are we in Africa and the Global Value Chains?

- ▶ There are benefits: from primary production to process manufacturing.
- ▶ A focus on target markets and quality – the sustainability debate
- ▶ The strategy should be to create adequate demonstration effects that will enhance efficient downstream production and the stream of rewards/returns
- ▶ But the role of women?
  - Efficient producers and efficient resource users
  - Good savers
  - But do they control the income streams? Legal or social system change?
  - Do we need to propose radical changes or create cooperative movements – institutionalize women agribusiness and entrepreneurs
  - If this succeeds then targeted micro lending for women
  - Financial education, etc. – we have lived with these suggestions! – We need a priority line where to start and when to declare victory.

# Smallholder Production and Value Chain Sustainable Model

- ▶ Duke University – very elaborate institutional support and protection
- ▶ Recognizes the binding constraints and where interventions are needed.
- ▶ AfDB strategy adds the benefits of food security – but we need processing, storage, transport to the market and marketing – this is where appropriate interventions are needed:
  - High yielding Seeds, Rural roads networks, irrigation, rural electrification, Post-harvest management, etc.
  - Strong success cases both downstream and upstream will provide the required demonstration effects
  - Adequate knowledge generation and information capital
  - Financial inclusion –poverty reduction and inclusive growth

# The Smallholder Production Setting – Is it Challenging in Africa?

- ▶ Smallholders in Africa are:
  - Receptive to market developments: new markets, new opportunities, new products
  - Receptive to technological developments: high yielding varieties, high value chains, new tools
  - Risk averse and practical in their way of life/coping strategies
- ▶ But why have we not succeeded in transforming smallholder producers – why the massive failure? AfDB suggests in this paper some glimpse of hope.
- ▶ But it is against a backdrop of institutional and policy failure and prolonged under-investment in agriculture by governments
- ▶ We need sufficient demonstration effects: from high value chains, using knowledge management systems, working social protection systems, intervention for women and success cases of various models
- ▶ This is what will make a difference in Africa for smallholder producers.
- ▶ But important channels for food security and market for surplus will endogenize the process for high value chains and investments.