

Sustainable agriculture : a cross cutting issue ?

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*« Quels objectifs pour le développement après 2015 ?
Point d'étape et intégration de la durabilité environnementale »
Paris, 15 février 2013*

Outline

Development Goals centred on outcomes

Avoid being normative on public policies

But what can we learn from other arenas where agricultural development policies are discussed internationally ?

- What links appear necessary between MDGs ?
- Sustainability of agricultural development :
 - Ensuring long term food security and viability/resilience of development pathways
 - Environmental impacts – on MDG 7
- Food / Energy / Water security and resources scarcities

Food security, poverty and agricultural development

A consensus on the basic requirements / Policies that worked

- Food security : access to food is key
- Agricultural development for smallholders
- Food aid for urban poorest
- Coordinating the two programmes
- Right to food

Agricultural development for smallholders

- Key issue for food security and poverty, but also a key question for employment in many regions
- Necessary policy measures
 - Improving access to land, water, health and education (public services)
 - Increasing public investments
 - Improving access to markets (outputs and inputs, infrastructures)
 - Improving access to financial services and insurance
 - Improving the performance of producers organisations
 - Developing a national agricultural research and innovation system
 - Valorisation of environmental services
 - Monitoring and planning capacities of governments

Policies that worked have made the link between different MDGs
(1/2/3/4/5/6/7C)

Sustainability of agricultural development

Long term Viability / Resilience to global change :

- environmental shocks,
- climate change,
- ecosystems degradation,
- dependency on fossile energy,
- resources scarcities
- ...

Environmental impacts of agricultural intensification

- Contribution to climate change,
- Overexploitation of resources,
- Ecosystems degradation (soils, water ecosystems, biodiversity...)
- ...
- Social dimension : employment, inequalities in access to resources

Sustainable agriculture : Controversies among models

Changes in production systems : what challenges are taken into account ?

- Resource efficiency,
- Productivity / Sustainable intensification
- Climate smart,
- Agroecology,...

Changes in the whole supply chain : only emerging issues

- Waste reduction
- Nutrition as a key element of food security, even for the poorest (double burden)
- Sufficiency,...

MDGs are result oriented, and not normative about means...

- But some models might not ensure long term viability, nor linkages between MDG1 and 7A/B
- And other key environmental issues (water quality) that might have important costs for attaining other goals (access to safe drinking water)
- Which is critical for emerging countries and developed countries

Providing food, energy and water security : trade offs and synergies

The same resources (land, water,...) will be used to provide access to food, energy, water security

Sharing the resources while ensuring at least basic security for food, energy and water provision

- A cross-cutting plan to share the resources and ensure balance with other sources:
 - Rainfed agriculture complementary to irrigated agriculture
 - Hydroelectricity, Biofuels, but also other renewables for energy
 - ...

If there are no changes in development pathways and consumption models,

- productivity and resource efficiency might not be enough
- and resources could be overexploited or the share be very inequitable

Concluding remarks

To achieve MDG 1C Food security, we need to achieve MDGs 2/3/4/5/6/7

Long term sustainability/viability of MDG 1C Food security : need to consider environmental impacts (MDG 7 and beyond)

Trade offs between MDG 1C and MDG 7C : plan and organise share of and access to key resources (land, water, ...)

Sharing scarce resources and ecosystems services make it necessary not just to increase productivity of agricultural production (and water and energy production)

but also to change trends in consumption models towards sufficiency and demand management, in order that the increase in consumption of the wealthiest does not come at the expense of the poorest