

Sustainable Agriculture and Wildlife Resources in Sub Saharan Africa:

by

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the Relationship to Country Foods and Food Security

Food Security

- World Health Organization defines:
 - *when all people have access to good food to maintain life*
- Protein Intake: often < 10-15g/day
(requirement is 40-70 g/day)
- Why?

Disparity



- Meat affordability
- Lack of refrigeration to maintain fresh or frozen products over long periods
- Afford Refrigeration
- Hygienic processing

Nigerian Demographics

- Nigeria - 182 million people counted – real number probably over 200 million
 - World Bank (2012) estimated it to be 47% of West Africa population
- Largest oil exporter in Africa
- High unemployment rate
- Estimated 50 million youth unemployed (IFPRI 2012)

Economics and Food

- 70% live on < US\$1.25/day
- Rural areas – 80% live below poverty level
- Agriculture mainstay for labour force and 40% of GNP (IFAD 2012)
- World's largest producer of yam, cassava and cowpea
- Still deficit – depend on imports of grains, livestock products, fish (IFAD 2012)

Climate and Agriculture



- 71 million Ha cultivatable
- Half is currently farmed
- Problems of drought, need for irrigation, lack of infrastructure
- Because many small farms depend on seasonal rains therefore they are subsistence
- Deforestation and desertification

Sustainability



- Sustainable development – shift to domestic food production
- Prioritize commodities, post-harvest systems development
- Agri-innovation toward value-added
- Overall – Can agriculture be the main driver in the countrys' growth?

Problem



- Food insecurity throughout the region
- Variable rainfall
- Training & Education
- Improvements in agriculture have not been wide spread – empowerment of technology to rural poor has not happened
 - Leads to a large population of food insecure people.

Alternative Considerations:

Not complete answer but can be part of solution

Turn Key

- Stationary/Mobile country food processing/value-added facilities
- Skills Training
- Local trading and marketing
- Hygienic
- Education



Strategic Benefits & Impacts: Country Food Processing

- Food Security: country food processing and preservation
- Affordability & shelf stability
- Training & Education
- Empower women
- Sustainable Agriculture & wildlife utilization
- Tourism



Food Security

- Shelf stable – value-added storage options
- Improved hygienic environment
- Mobile (potentially)
- Options in conjunction with community
- Target size to volume and species available.



Skills Training & Education

- On-hands training
- Target choices – community driven
- Can evolve into community education for youth
 - ie. cooperative, literacy, numeracy, community assisted education



Skills/Empower Women

- Gender equality
- Productive livestock and wildlife translates to food security and economic benefit
- Women will pass these ideals to youth and educate a nation



Tourism and Spinoffs

- Wildlife and Resource viewing
- Healthy bio systems
- Specialty country foods for tourism: *can be livestock or wildlife*
- Employment
- Products that can be part of tour package





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Synthesis

- Livestock and range management: option for decision-making when rainfall is seasonal and unpredictable.
- Helps ensure better nutrition at community level
- Skills training and empowerment
- Hygienic processes
- Tourism opportunity – especially in RSA & Namibia

Canadian North & Rural Sub Saharan Africa

- Both regions have varying precipitation which influence productivity (one cold vs hot)
- Both have a deep tradition of culture & tradition
- Both can better manage their resources & provide foods that are nutritionally dense
- Both can utilize the value-added processing & tie to country foods to augment tourism





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