



Future Agricultures Consortium

An Overview of Issues and Activities

**Ethiopian Economics Association
Fifth International Conference on the Ethiopian Economy**

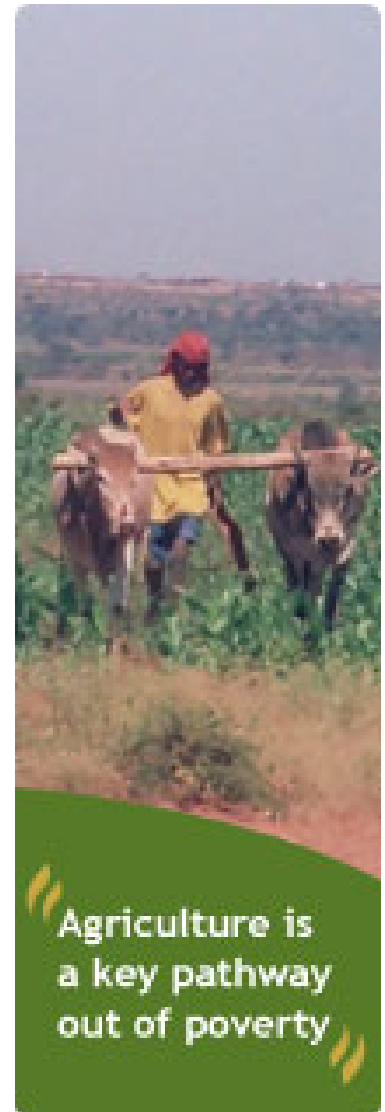
Addis Ababa – 7-9 June 2007



Focus

1. *Future agricultures* – multiple pathways, visions, scenarios, trajectories: encouraging local debate and dialogue about options; understanding the dynamics of change

2. *Policy processes* – what enables/ constrains options, and through what institutional and political processes?





Four Key Themes

1. Agricultural commercialisations
(Parallel Session I – Room 2!)
2. Policy processes
3. Growth and social protection
4. Science, technology and innovation

Three Focal Countries

1. Ethiopia
2. Kenya
3. Malawi

Why Future Agricultures?

- Agriculture and ‘pro-poor’ growth – back on international development policy agenda
- New policy statements and initiatives from major development players → AU/NEPAD CAADP; DFID; Millennium Project; OECD; Rockefeller/Gates AGRA; USAID; World Bank; etc.

... Yet, lack of focus on local conditions and contexts, and the challenges of policy processes...



Learning Consortium on African Agriculture

- **Critical research and reflection** → new agricultural agenda
- **Platform for policy debate + communication hub**
- **Networking** among different institutes – S-N / S-S / N-N → **adding value through synergies**
- **Solid partnerships** in Africa → linking local debates and contexts to wider discussions

Partnerships

- **Ethiopia:** Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute (EEPRI); A-Z Consulting; Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI)
- **Kenya:** Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA); Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi; Agricultural Sector Coordination Unit (ASCU)
- **Malawi:** Chancellor College, University of Malawi; Wadonda Consult
- **UK:** Imperial College/Wye; Overseas Development Institute (ODI); Institute of Development Studies (IDS); Department for International Development (DFID)

Future Agricultures Consortium Ethiopia

1. Six regional level policy dialogues on ‘future agricultures’
2. Links to national debate on the new PRSP (PASDEP)
3. Case studies:
 - New export agriculture (flowers, horticulture)
 - Key cash & staple crops (coffee, teff)
 - Social protection experiences and links to agriculture/growth
 - The role of the ministry of agriculture in coordination

EEA Plenary Presentations - Lessons

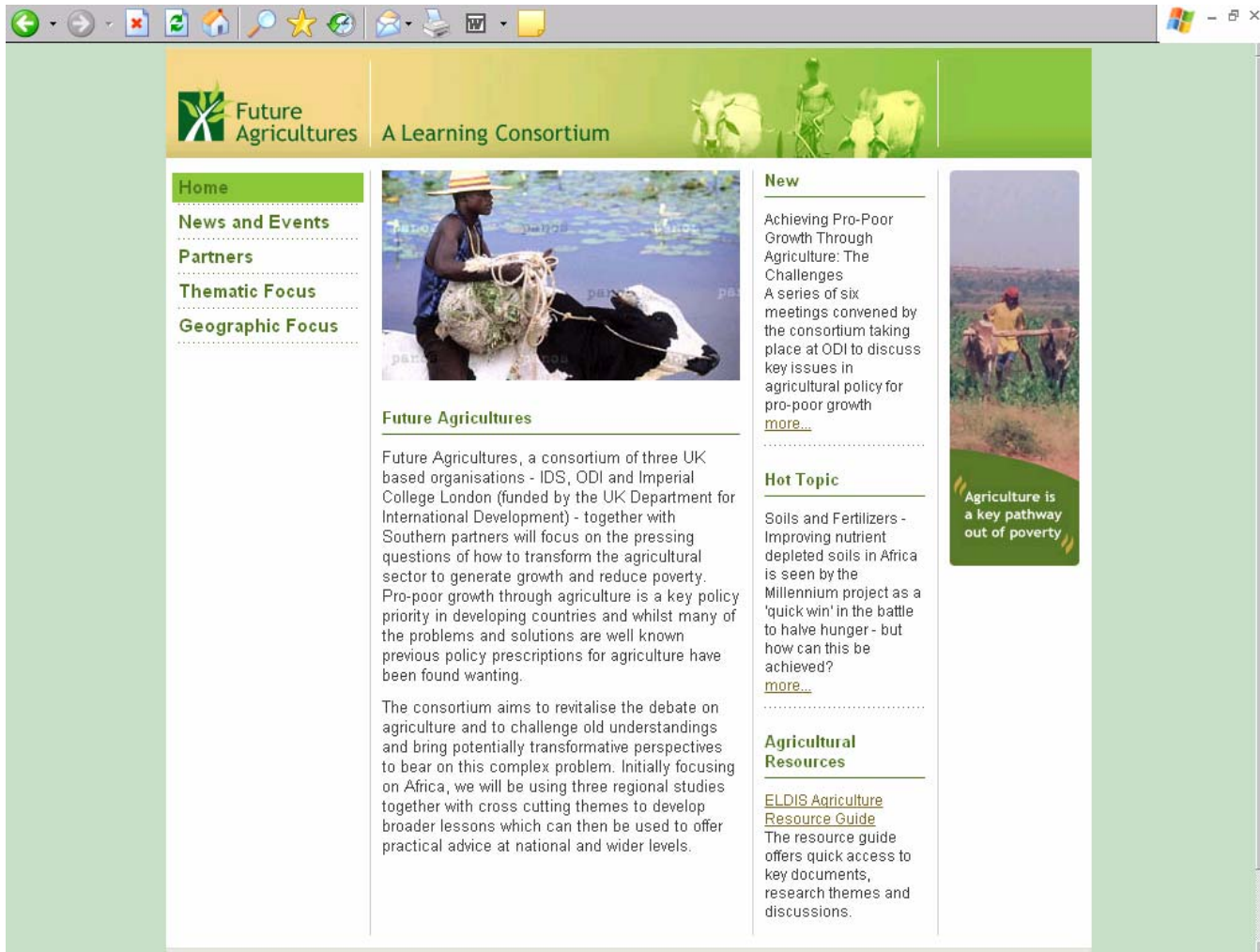
- Avoid generalised diagnosis and prescription → recognise **dynamics and diversity** of agri-food systems → Rainbow Revolutions rather than New Green Revolutions?
- Need to understand the interactions of economic, social *and* political **processes**
- Locate change processes in **particular local contexts**
- Focus on **politics** – avoid simple technical fixes
- Recognise multiple pathways – **negotiate trade-offs**



The Future of Future Agricultures

- **Deepening the dialogues** on future agricultures/ reflections on policy processes in the 3 focal countries
- **Extending the thematic work**, linking with emerging issues from country studies
- **Developing strategies for policy engagement** – with national processes, DFID, World Bank, AGRA, others...
- **Continuing to develop and promote the FAC website** as an information/debating platform
- **Broadening partnerships** – new collaborators, new countries → West Africa?


www.future-agricultures.org



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Future Agricultures website. The browser's address bar shows the URL www.future-agricultures.org. The website header features the Future Agricultures logo and the text "A Learning Consortium" next to a background image of a farmer with oxen. A left-hand navigation menu includes links for Home, News and Events, Partners, Thematic Focus, and Geographic Focus. The main content area is divided into several sections: a featured article titled "Future Agricultures" with a sub-image of a farmer with a cow, a "New" section with the article "Achieving Pro-Poor Growth Through Agriculture: The Challenges", a "Hot Topic" section on "Soils and Fertilizers", and an "Agricultural Resources" section featuring the "ELDIS Agriculture Resource Guide". A small sidebar on the right contains a photo of a farmer and the text "Agriculture is a key pathway out of poverty".

Future Agricultures A Learning Consortium

Home
News and Events
Partners
Thematic Focus
Geographic Focus



Future Agricultures

Future Agricultures, a consortium of three UK based organisations - IDS, ODI and Imperial College London (funded by the UK Department for International Development) - together with Southern partners will focus on the pressing questions of how to transform the agricultural sector to generate growth and reduce poverty. Pro-poor growth through agriculture is a key policy priority in developing countries and whilst many of the problems and solutions are well known previous policy prescriptions for agriculture have been found wanting.

The consortium aims to revitalise the debate on agriculture and to challenge old understandings and bring potentially transformative perspectives to bear on this complex problem. Initially focusing on Africa, we will be using three regional studies together with cross cutting themes to develop broader lessons which can then be used to offer practical advice at national and wider levels.

New


Achieving Pro-Poor Growth Through Agriculture: The Challenges
A series of six meetings convened by the consortium taking place at ODI to discuss key issues in agricultural policy for pro-poor growth [more...](#)

Hot Topic

Soils and Fertilizers - Improving nutrient depleted soils in Africa
is seen by the Millennium project as a 'quick win' in the battle to halve hunger - but how can this be achieved? [more...](#)

Agricultural Resources

ELDIS Agriculture Resource Guide
The resource guide offers quick access to key documents, research themes and discussions.


Agriculture is a key pathway out of poverty