

Agricultural Education and Training in Post-Conflict Environments

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It's personal for me

- Grew up in DRC in the turmoil years after independence
- Did my agricultural education and training later on a “post-conflict” environment
- Eastern DRC today in unending conflicts again
- So is my USAID ERA adopted region of Ziguinchor/Casamance in Senegal

Sub-Saharan Perspective

- Over **9 million refugees and internally displaced people** from conflicts in Africa
- **Hundreds and thousands of people slaughtered** from a number of conflicts and civil wars
- If this scale of destruction and fighting was in Europe, then people would be calling it **World War III**

Political in Nature: Power and Scarcity of Resources

- Multiple and interconnected causes
- Distributed over time; may subside and escalate again, so that sporadic violence and its threat become the accepted norm

Political in Nature: Power and Scarcity of Resources (cont.)

- Embedded and are expressions of divisions within existing social, political, economic and cultural differences
- Involve predatory social formations based on ethnic/tribal groups, religions, etc., and can be mobilized and violently manipulated by **conflict entrepreneurs and political leaders who gain power, money and other favors**

Impacts of Conflicts

- **Poverty rates are 20 percent higher** in countries affected by repeated cycles of violence
- Most countries with conflicted situations either are off track or seriously off track to meet the MDGs by 2015
- High levels of sexual violence and proportions of female headed-households

Impacts of Conflicts (cont.)

- Many children were forced as soldiers
- Country's infrastructure destroyed
- Education affected with higher percentages of the public schools completely destroyed and many left unusable

Agriculture & AET in Post-Conflict Situations

- Rebuilding education is a critical aspect of recovery efforts and post-conflict development strategies
- The education system can shape or provoke conflict
- Post-conflict education can be used for peace building

Agriculture & AET in Post-Conflict Situations (cont.)

- Need to balance **short-term** vs. **long term** & **effective** vs. **efficient** interventions
- The education system maybe extremely weakened; even if not, there may be a rupture in cohorts of students
- Need to include **youth of military age** and **ex-child soldiers**
- **Well-trained teachers** at all levels, an immediate need, although a pre-conflict problem as well

Agriculture & AET in Post-Conflict Situations (cont.)

- Agriculture frequently offers the most promising immediate source of livelihood for most folks
- Dominance of **agriculture & jobs skills** related training

Agriculture & AET in Post-Conflict Situations (cont.)

- Self-employment is critical: training in **support of business and entrepreneurship** relevant to the opportunities
- Include strong **support to science and technology** foundations
- An opportunity to **promote fundamental change!**

Selected Examples from SSA

- **Sierra Leone**

- YouthWorks micro-franchising pilot project provided self-employment opportunities for youth

- Facilitating franchise business relationships with existing companies, general training on entrepreneurship, business plan development mentoring, etc.

- Promotion of urban and peri-urban agriculture with training involvement of Njala University and Fouah Bay College

Selected Examples from SSA (cont.)

- **Liberia**

- Decentralization** plans in place in 2011

- A **Technology Transfer Center** will show farmers how to use machines and other farming implements

- Community Knowledge Centers** being considered for increased success in education, sustainable agriculture practices, health and nutrition, etc.

- Focus on **libraries** being developed on several fronts

Selected Examples from SSA (cont.)

- **Rwanda**

- Commitment to developing a strong education system: **more than 25% of the federal spending** (teacher development, school leadership, and strategic support)

- Technical and Vocational Education and Training Program

- Development of a gender-sensitive Masters of Science in Agribusiness

- Preparation of highly employable staff with emphasis in export of agricultural products

What's Happening at InnovATE?

- Interested in post-conflict countries (Rwanda, Burma, Cambodia, Liberia, Mali, etc.)
- Review of literature, reports, etc.
- AgroLinks Consultation: May 7-9, 2013
- August 20-21, 2013 workshop in Kampala, Uganda on “Building AET Capacity in Post-Conflict Countries: South Sudan and SSA”
- September 18-20, 2013 AET Symposium

AgroLinks Consultation Comments on Post-Conflict Interventions

- (1) systematic & comprehensive (include key stakeholders)
- (2) locally owned, and still away from perceived individual “gains from this project and that project”)
- (3) relevant (take into account critical environmental factors in history, politics, environment, etc.)
- (4) strategically value-adding
- (5) sustainable (developing countries and development specialists/advocates ought to demand for no less than 10 year initiatives)

Kampala Workshop

- Consequences and strategies to AET caused by post-conflict situations
- Guidelines on post-conflict agricultural capacity building
- List of priority researchable topics for AET capacity building

Desired Outcomes

- Learn from all of these exercises, processes and resources about what works best
- Design innovative ways for agricultural education and training systems in post-conflict environments
- Train each other so that we can tap into youth energies and others in order to contribute to stability, agricultural development, and food security in developing nations

Contact Information

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