The National Coalition for Food & Agricultural Research

Program:

Shifting Winds in International Agricultural Development

What's Behind Africa's Turnaround?

May 19, 2014
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

DR. GEORGE W. NORTON, VIRGINIA TECH
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

Distinguished Speaker

WILLIAM A. MASTERS, PROFESSOR AND CHAIR
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICY AT THE
FRIEDMAN SCHOOL OF NUTRITION, TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Open Forum

Closing

DR. GEORGE NORTON

NATIONAL C-FAR IS a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and customer-led coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension, and education. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at tom@vanarsdall.com.
ABSTRACT
Over the past decade, many African countries have reversed their earlier economic decline and achieved some of the world’s fastest rates of economic growth and job creation. This turnaround is associated with slow-moving trends in rural demography and agricultural productivity that lifted economic prospects in Asia from the 1980s, leaving Africa as the world’s poorest continent since the 1990s. Those winds have now shifted, creating economic opportunities in African agriculture and the prospect of rapid improvement in food security, nutrition and health. Today’s seminar discusses recent evidence on the speed and timing of rural development in Africa and other regions, and what these trends mean for US foreign assistance and agricultural development policy.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY
Will Masters, Ph.D., is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Food and Nutrition Policy at the Friedman School of Nutrition, Tufts University. His research focuses on the economics of agriculture and nutrition in rural Africa. Before coming to Tufts in July 2010 he was a faculty member in Agricultural Economics at Purdue University (1991-2010), and also at the University of Zimbabwe (1989-90), Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government (2000) and Columbia University (2003-04). Recent publications include “Agriculture, nutrition, and health in global development”, in Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences (2014), “Urbanization and farm size in Asia and Africa: Implications for food security and agricultural research” in Global Food Security (2013), and an undergraduate textbook co-authored with George Norton and Jeff Alwang, Economics of Agricultural Development (Routledge, 3rd ed. forthcoming). From 2006 through 2011 he edited Agricultural Economics, the journal of the International Association of Agricultural Economists; in 2010 he was named an International Fellow of the African Association of Agricultural Economists, and in 2013 he was awarded the Bruce Gardner Memorial Prize for Applied Policy Analysis from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). Details are available online at: http://sites.tufts.edu/willmasters.
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