

# From Protection to Production: Strengthening coherence between agriculture and social protection in Sub Saharan Africa

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# Social protection and agriculture in breaking the cycle of rural poverty

- Despite recent progress, 1/3 in low and middle-income countries live in poverty, 1/6 in extreme poverty
- Extreme poverty increasingly concentrated in Sub Saharan Africa and in rural areas
- Emphasis on both social protection and agriculture as necessary to break the cycle of rural poverty

# Why do livelihoods matter for social protection?

## Example of social cash transfers in SSA

- Most beneficiaries in Sub Saharan Africa are rural, engaged in agriculture and **work for themselves**
  - >80% produce crops; >50% have livestock
- Most grow local staples, traditional technology and low levels of modern inputs
  - Most production consumed on farm
- Most have low levels of productive assets
  - few hectares of land, few animals, basic tools, few years of education
- Engaged on farm, non farm business, casual wage labour (ganyu)
- Often labour-constrained
  - Elderly, single headed household
- Large share of children work on the family farm
  - 50% in Zambia, 30% in Lesotho, 42% in Kenya

# Reaching social goals requires sustainable livelihoods

- Work in context of multiple market failures in credit, insurance, etc
  - Constrain economic decisions in investment, production, labor allocation, risk taking
    - Short time horizon—imperative of meeting immediate needs
    - Lack of liquidity, difficult to manage risk
  - Decisions about production and consumption linked
- “non separability” of production and consumption means that **social objectives are conditioned by livelihoods—and vice versa**
  - Labor needs (adults and children), including domestic chores
  - Investment in schooling and health
  - Food consumption, dietary diversity and nutrition
  - Intra household decision making
    - Dynamic between men and women, old and young

# Social cash transfers targeted to poorest of the poor can have productive impacts—how?

- Long term effects of improved human capital
  - Nutritional and health status; educational attainment
  - Labor productivity and employability
- Transfers can relax some of constraints brought on by market failure (lack of access to credit, insurance)
  - Helping households manage risk
  - Providing households with liquidity
- Transfers can reduce burden on social networks and informal insurance mechanisms
- Infusion of cash can lead to multiplier effects in local village economy

# Agriculture, livelihood interventions play important part in social protection systems

- Almost three quarters of economically active rural population are smallholders, most producing own food
- Small holder agriculture as key for rural poverty reduction and food security in Sub Saharan Africa
  - Relies on increased productivity, profitability and sustainability of small holder farming
- Addressing chronic food insecurity requires a long-term, predictable package of social protection and complementary measures—including food production
- Social protection and agriculture need to be articulated as part of strategy of rural development
- Countries moving towards systems approach (WB and UNICEF)

# The role of FAO in social protection

- Adding voice to government and development partners as to key role of social protection in reducing hunger and poverty
- Nexus between social protection, food and nutrition security, agriculture and livelihoods
  - Rural households that rely on agriculture for livelihoods are major target group of wide range of both social protection interventions and smallholder agriculture interventions
- Access to government and line Ministries related to rural development, and in particular agriculture
- Facilitating articulation of social protection and agriculture as part of strategy of rural development

# The From Protection to Production Project: What is PtoP about?

Strengthening  
coherence between  
agriculture and social protection



# First, understanding the economic impacts of social protection

- Provide insight into how social protection can contribute to sustainable poverty reduction and economic growth at household and community levels.
- Currently working with impact evaluations of government-run social cash transfer programs in seven countries
  - Malawi, Ghana, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Kenya
  - Adding Rwanda
- Will present evidence at our next session on Saturday

# Second, evidence-based policy support

- Focusing on strengthening coherence between agricultural and social protection policy and programming
  - Regional and country level dialogue between Ministries of Agriculture, Social Welfare and Finance, civil society organizations, regional organizations and development agencies
  - Guidance material on strengthening coherence between agriculture and social protection
  - Targeted policy outreach
- In collaboration with UNICEF, WFP, African Union NEPAD, ILO, World Bank, civil society organizations and others

# Coherence can maximize poverty reduction and food security outcomes

- Fundamentally linked in rural context
- Play complementary and interdependent roles
- In practice, often designed and implemented in ad hoc, parallel fashion
- Many factors pose barriers to effective joint action
  - Differing mandates, worldviews, priorities
  - Organizational fragmentation
  - Competition for resources and political leverage
- Promoting coherence through programming
  - Single, joint and aligned programmes
- Design features can be used to maximize synergies
  - Targeting, predictability, timing and sequencing, messaging

# Our websites

From Protection to Production Project

<http://www.fao.org/economic/PtoP/en/>

The Transfer Project

<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/projects/transfer>

