



**BIOENERGY IN AFRICA:
IS IT A DRIVER OF HUNGER?**



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BY

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CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION



- INTRODUCTION
- Original purpose of agriculture in Africa
- Poverty levels in Africa
- Benefits of Bioenergy
- The beauty of Bioenergy
- Bioenergy, is it a driver of hunger?
- Can it be a driver of hunger?
- Can not be driver of hunger.
- DISCUSSION
- CONCLUSION



ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF AGRICULTURE



- History show that Prior to Colonial Era, Food Production was the main Purpose of Agricultural Activities in Africa
- So food security was not an issue by then
- But land and labour was gradually withdrawn from subsistence economy to cash crop economy;



POVERTY LEVELS IN AFRICA



- Millions of Africans rural farmers are living in extreme poverty
- In Tanzania 140 children die every day due to poverty orientated reasons
- A cow in USA spends US \$ 2.2 per day but a man in Africa spends US \$ 0.9 per day





BENEFITS OF BIOENERGY



- Bioenergy holds enormous potential for African agriculture and for its economies in general and some of the benefits are;
- It can increase the farmers' access to the market;
- By-products of the bioenergy production are organic fertilizers and animal feed, which in turn might boost crop and livestock production;
- It can contribute to; increased trade and investment in the country, diversification of the economy and to industrialization;



THE BEAUTY OF BIOENERGY



- The beauty of bioenergy is that production can be tailored to local environment and individual farmers
- Where there is land, there are farmers, there is an interest and good business model, bioenergy may be the best option



IS IT A DRIVER OF HUNGER?



- There are several assumptions which are used by misinformed people on this as to how bioenergy production can cause hunger; (Three assumptions):
 - 1. Question of land;**
 - The argument here is that there is no enough land to grow bioenergy crops.
 - This is not true especially for some African countries south of Sahara, e.g. Tanzania, it has a land area of 88 million hectares of which up to 55.2 million ha are suitable for agriculture. Less than a third of that is currently in use (10.85m ha). Mozambique, Zambia, etc, are some extra examples.



IS IT A DRIVER OF HUNGER? CONT.



2. Question of bioenergy competing with food production

- This is only correct in countries with high input level that cannot expand land under crops. In African countries such as Tanzania, which have expansion potential and/low input levels there is no immediate competition.
- Using the merits of intercropping which is widely practiced by many Africans and Tanzanians in particular, the issue of competition is diluted and has no value.



IS IT A DRIVER OF HUNGER? CONT



3. People cannot even grow enough for their own food

- This is the most vicious passion killer as it starts from the assumption that (subsistence) farmers produce so little food because they are technically not capable to do better.
- This is wrong assumption, farmers know how to produce more, but they have no market incentives to do so.
- It is the economy and technology that pushes marginalized farmers to subsistence (survival).



CAN IT BE DRIVER OF HUNGER?



- The answer for this might be YES or NO as some countries such as Tanzania have experienced mixed effects on introduction of bioenergy industry depending on the approach
- In some areas, smallholder farmers were displaced to give way for establishment of energy crops plantation.
- Also some foreign investors were given large area of arable land (sometimes the areas were up to 100,000 ha) with leases lasting for 99 years and is renewable
- Yes, with such environment bioenergy can easily be a driver of hunger in Africa.



BIOENERGY CAN NOT BE DRIVER OF HUNGER



- It is the approach of establishing the bioenergy industry that can be a driver of Hunger.
- If the approach is more social and democratic (involving the smallholders right from planning, production and processing) bioenergy in Africa will be CHASING THE HUNGER away.
- Poor approach (such as that of displacing smallholder farmers, poor land tenure systems, etc) will end up into a disaster.



DISCUSSION



- With good approach (where smallholder farmers are taken on board from production to processing) bioenergy in Africa will kill two birds using one stone.
- **First** farmers will have reliable market for their crops, this will increase their income. Food security improved (**NO HUNGER**)
- **Second**, bioenergy will reduce the volume of oil import and hence government will have some savings of foreign exchange which can be used in other development activities.



CONCLUSION



- The statement that Bioenergy is driver of HUNGER is not true, but we do admit that with poor approach it can create environment that HUNGER might be one of the results.
- Production of bioenergy in Africa should be encouraged, but it should be carried out with care so that small scale farmers benefits from it.



SOME SLOGANS FROM AFRICA



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VIELEN DANK

MANY THANKS

ASANTE SANA